

CITY OF VIRGINIA

327 FIRST STREET SOUTH • VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA 55792-2623

December 17, 2014

Environmental Management Support, Inc.
Attn: Mrs. Edie Findeis Cromwell
8601 Georgia Avenue, Suite 500
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mrs. Cromwell,

I am pleased to submit the enclosed grant application on behalf of the Central Iron Range Initiative Brownfields Coalition (the Coalition) for a FY 2015 EPA Community-Wide Coalition Assessment grant. This grant application requests \$600,000 for activities that include planning and community engagement, on-going brownfields site identification, environmental assessments and response planning related to brownfield sites polluted by petroleum and hazardous substances.

The Coalition communities, located approximately 200 miles north of the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, consist of 19 rural cities and townships with a total population of 37,510 according to the 2010 Census. The vast majority of the land surrounding each community is encumbered by current mining operations, historic mine-scarred lands, or areas being held for future mining. The result is land-locked communities with very little remaining land for development.

Although our area has experienced challenging economic conditions in recent times, the iron mining and associated industrial base of our local economy is poised to grow substantially. New development in our area is not just predicted – it is here, as reflected by the large Essar Steel facility construction underway near Nashwauk, Minnesota. In response to this growth, we are experiencing increased pressure for new housing, new industrial/commercial parks, and new infrastructure. These needs require land – making brownfield redevelopment crucial to the economic growth of our land-locked communities.

In addition to our land development challenges, the Coalition communities have the unpleasant distinction of having almost three times the rate of mesothelioma as is found anywhere else in the State of Minnesota. Recent studies conducted by researchers at the University of Minnesota have established an association between the risk of developing mesothelioma and the length of time worked at a Taconite plant. This is a real concern as we assess brownfields issues on historical mine-scarred lands.

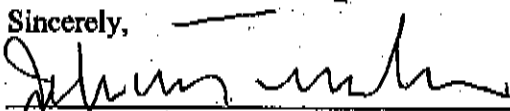
Our Coalition has a track record of success in dealing with brownfields issues in our area, having recently completed \$726,500 of work on a 2011 EPA Brownfields Assessment grant. Phase I and Phase II assessments were conducted on fourteen brownfield sites, one of which is fully redeveloped and producing products and full-time employment for local workers. The other thirteen sites all have development plans and are poised to move forward with environmental issues assessed. Despite these initial successes, deep needs remain across our Coalition as

evidenced by the six new Iron Range communities that joined our Coalition for the current funding application.

The work of the CIRI Brownfields Program is consistent with the goals and priorities of both St. Louis County and Itasca County's comprehensive land use plans. These priorities include: 1) strong county infrastructure, 2) health and well-being of county citizens, 3) healthy local economy, 4) healthy ecosystem, and 5) effective efficient government supporting re-development. Re-development of brownfields supports all of these priorities.

We appreciate the opportunity to request this crucial funding. We had a great experience working with the EPA on the FY 2011 grant program and made significant progress in our Brownfields assessment program. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (218) 748-7500 or by email at touvillej@virginiamn.us. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



John Tourville, City Administrator
City of Virginia, Minnesota

Cc: MS Keary Cragan, US EPA Region V, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Mail Code SM-7J,
Chicago, IL 60604-3507

Applicant and Application Summary Information

- A. **Applicant:** City of Virginia, Minnesota on behalf of the Central Iron Range Initiative Brownfields Coalition
- B. **Applicant DUNS number:** 03-137-2048
- C. **Funding Requested**
 - Grant Type: Assessment
 - Federal Funds Requested: \$600,000
 - Contamination: Hazardous materials: \$550,000; Petroleum: \$32,500
 - Coalition: Central Iron Range Initiative Brownfields Program Coalition
- D. **Location** (jurisdictions covered under this proposal)
 - In St. Louis County, Minnesota: The Cities of Aurora, Babbitt, Biwabik, Buhl, Chisholm, Cook, Ely, Eveleth, Gilbert, Hoyt Lakes, and Virginia, and the Township of Balkan.
 - In Itasca County, Minnesota: The Cities of Bovey, Coleraine, Keewatin, Marble, Nashwauk, and Taconite, and the Township of Lone Pine.
- E. **Property Information for Site-specific proposals:** N/A
- F. **Contacts:**
 - Project Director:* John Tourville, City Administrator, 327 1st Street South, Virginia, MN 55792; Phone: 218-748-7500; Email: touvillej@virginiamn.us
 - Chief Executive/Highest Ranking Elected Official:* Louis Russo, Mayor, 327 1st Street South, Virginia, MN 55792; Phone: 218-748-7500; Email: mayor@virginiamn.us
- G. **Date Submitted:** December 19, 2014
- H. **Project Period:** October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2018
- I. **Population:** 37,510 – based on 2010 U.S. Census Bureau
- J. **Other Factors Checklist** – attached

1. COMMUNITY NEED (50 Points)

1a. Targeted Community and Brownfields (25 Points)

1ai – Targeted Community Description (5 of 25 Points): The Mesabi Iron Range is located approximately 200 miles north of the Minneapolis/St. Paul Twin Cities in Northeastern Minnesota. The Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) Brownfields Assessment Coalition (Coalition) communities are located along the Iron Range, spanning a 100 mile distance that echoes the shape of the ore formation from Coleraine, MN to Ely, MN. Of the 19 communities that make up this Coalition, 12 are in St. Louis County (Aurora, Babbitt, Balkan, Biwabik, Buhl, Chisholm, Cook, Ely, Eveleth, Gilbert, Hoyt Lakes, and Virginia), and 7 are in neighboring Itasca County (Bovey, Coleraine, Keewatin, Lone Pine, Marble, Nashwauk, and Taconite). Mining of this area began in the mid-1800s and continues today. The historical mining activities began with underground mining which, after the 1920s, gave way to open pit mining operations, which expanded considerably after the 1950s.

In the early days of iron ore mining on “the Range,” mining *locations* were established at specific mine sites. These were collections of temporary structures, built to provide shelter for the miners and allow them to live close to the mines since transportation was rudimentary at that time. These mine-associated developments eventually evolved into incorporated *mining towns* which developed into more organized communities with local forms of government. High growth rates characterized the early days of the mining “boom” towns. When the source of nearby ore was determined to be a long-term and profitable resource, these mining towns developed into small *mining-oriented cities*. With this evolution, population growth rates slowed down and the community demographics transformed from frontier-like ratios (large ratios of men to women; few children) to more typical proportions.

Mining plays an important factor in the development of this region as the communities are virtually engulfed by historical mine lands and active mine holdings. Because the early miners built their homes close to the mines where they worked, the communities that emerged are now constrained by acres of waste rock stockpiles, lean ore and overburden stockpiles, abandoned mine pits, and idled industrial facilities related mining. In this grant application, we define this suite of former mine land types and the associated former facility properties generally as historical mine-scarred land. This vacated land that was mined prior to the existence of the 1980 State Mine Reclamation regulations has left a variety of lingering (Brownfields) environmental concerns.

A key point is that the majority of the land surrounding each Coalition community is encumbered by historical mine-scarred lands or will be mined in the future. The result is land-locked communities with very little remaining land for development. The effects of a mining economy that has used up many land areas and left others hamstrung by the stigma of potential brownfields concerns is an example of the “**Environmental Justice Equation**” truly disfavoring these communities.

It is important to note that current and future mine lands are being managed under modern environmental permit and site management programs and, therefore, are less likely to pose brownfields concerns. Consequently, the focus of this assessment project will be to evaluate historical mine-scarred lands and other brownfield sites which lie outside current and future mine holding areas. A map of the Coalition area can be found at <http://www.cirimn.com>.

1aii – Demographic Information (5 of 25 Points): Table 1 shows demographic data relevant to the community need for an effective Brownfields program. It also suggests limitations

to the ability of the communities to achieve an effective Brownfields program without financial assistance. Data in bold indicates a negative deviance from State averages.

Table 1: Demographic Data for CIRI Brownfields Program Coalition

Coalition Community	Total Population	% 65 yrs & older	Median Hsehold Income	Population below Poverty	# of housing units	Houses built <1940	Houses valued <\$50k
Aurora	1682	24.4%	\$40,129	18.3%	887	21.7%	23.9%
Babbitt	1475	31.3%	\$39,417	9.0%	843	2.3%	17.4%
Balkan	832	14.8%	\$56,818	10.9%	454	17.0%	1.6%
Biwabik	969	22.1%	\$33,906	16.3%	698	39.8%	19.3%
Bovey	804	14.2%	\$33,125	10.9%	395	64.8%	28.1%
Buhl	1000	20.9%	\$39,028	9.7%	468	38.0%	29.8%
Chisholm	4976	18.0%	\$35,500	16.3%	2530	38.5%	18.0%
Coleraine	1970	14.7%	\$44,618	6.4%	833	33.5%	5.9%
Cook	574	23.0%	\$39,632	12.2%	352	12.8%	16.1%
Ely	3460	22.9%	\$40,560	14.5%	1979	43.2%	7.2%
Eveleth	3718	16.1%	\$34,286	19.2%	1949	43.4%	23.0%
Gilbert	1799	17.8%	\$49,896	10.0%	992	37.9%	14.2%
Hoyt Lakes	2017	25.1%	\$47,708	7.0%	999	0.2%	16.3%
Keewatin	1068	14.1%	\$31,723	36.5%	578	34.8%	35.2%
Lone Pine	410	25.6%	\$55,536	3.4%	305	20.7%	4.8%
Marble	701	13.8%	\$33,375	29.0%	318	47.5%	20.0%
Nashwauk	983	20.55%	\$31,875	15.8%	529	33.5%	17.2%
Taconite	360	11.9%	\$48,750	9.8%	181	27.1%	16.0%
Virginia	8712	22.0%	\$36,397	21.6%	4821	29.6%	14.3%
Minnesota		12.9%	\$59,126	11.2%		17.8%	5.9%
U.S.		13.0%	\$53,046	14.9%		13.7%	8.6%

Data obtained through the U.S. Census Bureau. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

The demographic table reveals an aging population, aging housing stock, and low income levels in the Coalition area. Many workers are currently forced to commute from outside the area leading to the realization by our Coalition communities that new housing options are urgently needed. New mining developments and supporting service/commercial operations are now materializing, adding urgency to this need.

1a.iii – Brownfields (5 of 25 Points): The Coalition communities are affected by primarily two types of brownfields: 1) the historic mine-scarred lands that literally envelop our communities and 2) abandoned commercial or industrial sites that create blight in our downtowns or along highways and main street corridors. With the advent of new mineral processing technology, some historic mine-scarred lands (tailings basins and lean ore stockpiles) are now being re-mined (this is called scam mining). While scam mining is a force for economic growth and rehabilitation of abandoned mine lands, an unintentional consequence of scam mining is that it makes potential developable land unavailable in the near term.

The historic mine-scarred lands that are not being used for scam mining are not controlled. The general public has easy access to them for ATV use, hunting, illegal dumping, etc. The uncontrolled access causes environmental and safety concerns that generally fall into the following categories:

1. Steep and unstable slopes around old mine pits and on un-reclaimed waste rock stockpiles present a safety hazard. In addition the steep slopes are prone to erosion and may contribute to degradation of water quality.
2. Many sites had known maintenance, fueling, electrical generation and other infrastructure with the potential for petroleum and hazardous substance releases. The unrestricted recreational use by the public poses a potential for exposures to environmental impacts.
3. Un-reclaimed stockpiles have little vegetation and are prone to fugitive dust lift-off on windy days. Fugitive dust is a common air pollutant that can contribute to a number of respiratory illnesses.

The other type of brownfields, abandoned commercial and industrial sites, are a consequence of the up-and-down economy of mining. Our communities were growing through the early- to mid-1970s. At that time, the taconite industry was going strong and many workers were needed. Schools were full and so were the downtowns, highways and industrial parks. Finding any type of housing was a major challenge to anyone moving into this area. But with a long downturn in the 1980s, many mine and rail workers endured long-term layoffs. Many businesses did not survive the lean times and many commercial and industrial sites simply were never re-opened or re-developed. These kinds of sites constitute many of the non-mining brownfields we see around the communities – abandoned gas stations, defunct factories, empty stores in aging buildings, for example.

1aiv -- Cumulative Environmental Issues (10 of 25 Points): The recently published (<http://taconiteworkers.umn.edu/about/mesothelioma.html>) University of Minnesota Taconite Workers Study confirms that taconite workers have three times more mesothelioma diagnoses than the general population. Miners were also found to have a 30% higher incidence of heart disease. The exact source of these elevated threats was not directly linked to either indoor or outdoor air quality but an association between the risk of developing mesothelioma and the number of years of working at a taconite plant was established.

Other environmental issues include water quality and waste disposal challenges caused by historical mining operations. Community water supplies, both the availability and quality, have been negatively affected by historical mining. While modern mining operations practice a very high level of environmental engineering to avoid surface and ground water quality degradation, historical mining practices left a legacy of impacts to both. Likewise, historic mines operated without modern waste disposal practices. Lubricants (e.g. cable lube with lead constituents), fuel releases and waste products are often present on historic mine lands.

Due to recent limitations in rail service, ore is now being transported by road. This adds to the road congestion caused by long-distance commuters. This situation, over time, increases air pollution, road maintenance, and increases the risk of automobile accidents. As transportation infrastructure expands to address these concerns, the need to assess and develop brownfields in and around the Coalition communities will become more important.

1b. Impacts on Targeted Community (25 points)

As mentioned before, Northeastern Minnesota experiences an elevated rate of mesothelioma cases. Mesothelioma is often caused by exposure to asbestos or asbestos-like fibrous minerals that may be similar to those that occur in portions of the taconite iron ore formation. This has led to a working hypothesis that exposure to taconite dust, either in the processing plants, in the mining operation, or from fugitive dust, may be correlated to the incidence of this dreaded disease. Although research in this area is not yet complete, these findings suggest that it is important for historic mine-scarred land or abandoned operations

facilities to be assessed and managed in accordance with the well-established protocols of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's risk-based site characterization and remediation guidance so as to provide appropriate protections when re-developing the important land resources of the area's communities.

Current mining companies have stringent air quality dust controls in place for active mining and processing areas and current mining practice requires reclamation of waste rock and overburden stockpiles with topsoil and vegetation to meet water quality and safety objectives and also to control fugitive dust. However, fugitive dust originating from historical, un-reclaimed mine-scarred areas remains a concern for areas that may not have naturally re-vegetated. Some of these same historical mine-scarred areas will be targeted for assessments and future development. As noted above, assessment and redevelopment would follow State risk-based guidance and would result in eliminating the fugitive dust potential at such redevelopment sites.

Investigation of water quality and waste disposal concerns, on both historic mine-scarred lands targeted for redevelopment and abandoned commercial and industrial sites within the mine-oriented cities will be a principal objective of the ongoing assessment program. By addressing these concerns and providing liability protections to prospective developers, many brownfields may become suitable for redevelopment to address the community needs related to housing, transportation infrastructure, mining and mine-related businesses.

1c. Financial Need (15 points)

1ci – Economic Conditions (5 of 15 Points): The local economy has never completely recovered from when it was devastated as the bottom fell out of the steel market in the 1980s. Since steel mills are the sole customer of iron ore mines, the iron ore industry fluctuates in lock-step with the steel industry. When a depressed local economy, low employment, low income and low average property values for the Coalition assessment area are met with new industry and multiplied effects of new facility developments, the result is tremendous pressure on communities who have very few resources to effectively manage brownfield site issues that are certain to arise.

In the meantime, Local Government Aid to Coalition communities is being slashed annually. This creates a situation where the local governments have fewer people and resources to accomplish the preliminary work required to conduct a successful brownfields inventory and/or assessment program. The positive economic effects of any new facility developments are likely to be felt in a delayed manner. Although it will have a beneficial multiplier effect on the surrounding Coalition communities, the need for new infrastructure, added housing, and other commercial development are immediate. This puts pressure on the Coalition communities that are already struggling financially. Economic disadvantages of the Coalition communities are clearly shown in the 2010 census data, as follows:

- ***Low populations.*** The largest city in the coalition is Virginia (8,712 people) and the smallest has a population of 360 people (Taconite). Fifteen (15) of the nineteen (19) communities have populations under 3,000 (average 1,110 people).
- ***Low income levels.*** The average median household income for the Coalition communities is \$40,646, which is approximately 31% less than the average median household income in the State of Minnesota and 23% less than the national average.
- ***High poverty rates.*** Approximately 16.5% of the population in the Coalition communities is living below the poverty line, compared to 11.2% within the State of Minnesota, and 14.9% within the United States.
- ***High unemployment rates.*** The average unemployment rate for the Coalition cities is

6.07%. Just looking at the four coalition communities that have populations over 3,000 (Chisholm, Ely, Eveleth, & Virginia), the average unemployment rate is 18.33% compared to the Minnesota rate of 7.0% and 9.3% for the United States as a whole.

- **High senior population rates.** According to the 2010 Census, 20.22% of the people living in the Coalition communities were over 65 years old as compared to the national average of 13%. This translates into a lower tax base using higher levels of community resources, adding to the financial stress of the community.
- **Old housing stock.** In addition, most of the housing is old and in poor condition in these communities. Looking at the existing housing stock of the area is a telling indicator of the economic health of the communities. In some of the communities, well over 1/3 of their housing stock is over 75 years old and valued less than \$50,000. In Bovey, 2/3 of their housing stock is over 75 years old. On average, over 30% of the housing in the Coalition communities was built in 1939 or earlier and over 10% of all housing in the area is valued at less than \$50,000. There is a shortage of quality housing being constructed and a corresponding flat line of tax base to improve community infrastructure. Table 1 summarizes basic demographic data for the individual communities.

1cii – Economic Effects of Brownfields (10 of 15 Points): The Iron Range currently has numerous companies in the process of either expanding or relocating to the Iron Range. Attracting these investments requires unencumbered land to be available for their facilities and sufficient housing for their workers. In order to expand the housing stock, new infrastructure is needed. IRRRB infrastructure grants cannot be accessed without addressing brownfields challenges. The following are a few examples of the economic development that is affected by Brownfields in this area:

■ Essar Steel – October 2014 secured the final financing package for its \$1.8 Billion plant <http://www.startribune.com/business/277825461.html>. The Bozich Farm – one of the sites the CIRI Brownfields Program served, conducted Phase I and Phase II assessments, cleared the way for a 180 lot new housing project in Nashwauk. This housing development is strategically located to effectively support the needs of Essar Steel workers.

■ Magnetation and Mining Resources - (two active scrap iron mining companies) spent approximately \$350 Million on capital improvements for four new plants on the Iron Range. <http://www.magnetation.com/home/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Press-Release-Magnetation-LLC-Completes-100MM-Financing-July-17-2014-FINAL.pdf>

■ Segetis will be opening a new \$105 Million “green” chemical plant in Hoyt Lakes <http://www.startribune.com/business/256422061.html>

■ Jim Skurla, of UMD updated his 2009 study about the economic of mining in northeastern Minnesota (<https://lsbe.d.umn.edu/departments/bber/projects/2009MNMiningImpact.pdf>). “The study, first released in 2009 and updated in 2012, touted huge impacts from planned new mining projects, in terms of jobs and new tax revenue to the state and local areas” <http://www.minnpost.com/community-voices/2014/03/skurla-studys-mining-boom-would-be-due-almost-entirely-taconite>.

■ Tritac – this manufacturing company started out with 12 employees, currently employees 60, and would like to expand to create another 25 full-time jobs. Tritac is located next door to the Staver Foundry property, a site the CIRI Brownfields Program served, clearing this property for Tritac’s expansion.

■ Problast – this manufacturing company went from a successful home-based company to a 22,000 square foot facility on 8.3 acres, built on a Brownfield site assessed by the CIRI Brownfields Program. Total investment for this project was \$2,937,550. They now employ 13 full-time workers in the community.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND FEASIBILITY OF SUCCESS (50 Points)

2a. Project Description (25 Points)

2ai – Project Description (15 of 25 Points): The Coalition is requesting \$600,000 for a Coalition assessment grant which includes \$550,000 in hazardous substances funding (91.7%) and \$32,500 in petroleum funding (5.4%), and \$17,500 in administration costs (2.9%). These funds will help address the recognized need for the Coalition communities to promote re-use of the limited lands within their communities. This grant funding will help these communities prepare their key sites for development of the needed housing, infrastructure, commercial and recreational space or green space needed to grow and accommodate an up-coming influx of new jobs and new residents as well as increased demands on existing infrastructure

This project fits well with some of the major goals of Itasca County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2013). Environmental assessments will be required to "facilitate reclamation and stabilization of older mine areas for potential future use"

(<http://www.co.itasca.mn.us/Home/Departments/Environmental%20Services/Documents/FINAL%20UPDATED%202013%20COMPREHENSIVE%20LAND%20USE%20PLAN.pdf>). Other goals, including encouraging private investment in new housing and supporting the continuation and expansion of the mining industry, are a good fit with the Brownfields assessment program.

The Coalition proposes to use the grant funds to perform Phase I assessment and Phase II investigations and for developing response action plans for eligible sites that meet the Coalition's agreed-upon criteria.

An initial number of property assessments will be conducted on sites which are already listed on the CIRI inventories for potential brownfields concerns. While initial assessments are being conducted, the CIRI Brownfields Program will continue to work on their comprehensive inventory and prioritization of brownfield sites, which is already underway using IRRRB funding.

Northeastern Minnesota has a ready pool of professional environmental consultants located within 200 miles of the project area. Many of these consultants have expertise in the historical mining legacy and are qualified to prepare Phase I and Phase II documents on the brownfields unique to the Iron Range. Numerous investigation contractors and analytical laboratories, certified by the Minnesota Department of Health under the NELAC standards, are available to help with proper implementation of assessment and investigation activities. We are confident that the capabilities and systems are in place to promptly implement an effective EPA Assessment grant project.

Fiduciary Responsibility- the City of Virginia will be the Coalition's fiscal agent. The City has a proven track record of managing regional, State, and Federal grant funds. This includes experience using the EPA Brownfield Assessment Demonstration Pilot Grant Program in 2000 through 2002 and using the State Brownfields grant funds and petroleum reimbursement funds for assessments and cleanups at more than a dozen brownfield sites within the City of Virginia, Minnesota. The City knows the technical challenges of working with Brownfields sites and projects.

Coalition Advisory Board- the Coalition partners will use the criteria and site selection and prioritization procedures developed by CIRI and successfully employed under the 2011 assessment grant (described below in Section 2a.iii). The Board will be responsible for directing the Project Director and environmental consultants to perform the assessment tasks in accordance with the EPA Brownfields Program procedures and requirements and following the site selection and prioritization procedures. This Board already exists from the previous grant program.

Project Management- the City of Virginia will hire a Project Director for this program who will not only take care of the grant administration duties, but also focus on providing continued community outreach and communication to ensure smooth, continuous and collaborative efforts between the coalition communities, the environmental consultants, and the EPA.

2a.ii – Project Timing (5 of 25 Points): The prior work of the CIRI Brownfields Program allows the Coalition to start site assessment work promptly once the grant cooperative agreement and the required Quality Assurance Project Plans are approved and in place. Thirteen of the nineteen coalition communities joined the coalition to accomplish the initial work of the CIRI Brownfields coalition under an EPA Brownfields grant in 2011. They have worked through the coalition team development process, effectively accomplishing their work plan as described in their previous contract with the EPA. The work processes for this program have been developed, tested, and adjusted. The group can welcome its 6 new members with fully established site selection criteria, communication processes, reporting procedures, and valuable experience successfully working with the EPA on the existing Brownfields assessment program.

The assessment and investigation work under the grant agreement will be conducted by competitively procured professional environmental consultant services (following procedures of 40 CFR 31.36 for private services or 40 CFR 30.40 through 30.48 for procurement of non-profit services). We are confident we can begin the work of the grant project quickly and accomplish our work plan within the 3 year timeframe proposed.

2a.iii – Site Selection (5 of 25 Points): Target assessment properties will be selected based on jointly-agreed-upon prioritization criteria and finalized by the Coalition members at regularly scheduled Coalition meetings. The Coalition members will use the following criteria to guide the prioritization and selection of sites to tackle during the project: 1) Property eligibility and access, 2) Redevelopment potential, 3) Relative degree of the brownfields concerns expected, 4) Readiness- priority will be given to sites where a new owner/developer is identified, 5) Distribution of assessment properties among the communities, 6) Sites identified by a community on its existing inventory list, 7) Opportunity projects that may arise during the grant period, 8) Availability of grant funds. The site will be assigned a ranking score and recommendations based on the score will be made. The CIRI/Coalition members will then vote on whether the site can be brought forward to the EPA for consideration. The group already has the system in place to determine EPA site eligibility and ranking. This activity will be ongoing, beginning within one month of contract commencement.

2b. Task Description and Budget Table (20 Points)

2b.i – Task Description (15 of 20 Points):

Task 1- Phase I Assessments (\$108,000 Hazardous Substance; 4,500 Petroleum): The direct outputs under this task are Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Reports. The Coalition anticipates 24 Phase I assessments will be completed at an average cost of \$4,500. The

outcomes of Task#1 may be either the removal of liability barriers to development of identified brownfields sites or sites identified that requires Phase II assessments.

Task 2- Phase II Assessments (\$360,000 Hazardous Substance; \$25,000 Petroleum):

For purposes of estimating costs, the Coalition has assumed 7 hazardous substance sites will require Phase II assessments at an average cost of \$40,000 per site, 1 hazardous substance site will require a higher level of effort Phase II assessment at an estimated cost of \$80,000 and 1 petroleum site will require a Phase II assessment at an estimated cost of \$25,000. These ratios and estimated costs are based on the Coalition's past experience under the prior assessment grant project.

Direct outputs under this task are Site Specific Health and Safety Plans, Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP), Sampling and Analysis Plans (SAP) and Phase II Environmental Site Assessment Reports. The outcome of Task#2 will be either liability barriers to development will be removed for identified brownfield sites or sites identified that require some response action prior to development.

Task 3- Response Action Plan Development (\$45,000 Hazardous Substances; \$25,000 Petroleum): Similar to Task 2, cleanup plans (a.k.a. Response Action Plans) will be prepared to meet the requirements of the appropriate regulatory program and these are the specific output under Task 3. The outcome for Task #3 will be sites prepared for cleanup. The need for 3 response action plans for hazardous substance sites is anticipated at an average cost of \$15,000 each and 1 response action plan for a Petroleum site at an estimated cost of \$25,000.

Task 4- Community Outreach (\$1,500): Costs under this task will include mileage reimbursement for the program director as he or she provides face-to-face communication with existing coalition members, future coalition members, environmental consultants, and economic development professionals working in the coalition area. Expenses related to networking with other program partners in the administration of this program are also included under this task. Outcomes for this task will include effective coordination of efforts within the coalition.

Task 5- Programmatic and Coalition Support Activities (\$56,000): Costs for City of Virginia staff time are budgeted at \$5,000 with \$2,500 budgeted for supplies. We also anticipate that several Coalition members will elect to send staff to the EPA Brownfields Conference and \$9,000 is budgeted to cover travel. Finally, a total of \$40,000 is budgeted to cover appropriately procured program management time related to project planning and oversight, preparation of progress reports, budget tracking, and quarterly reports for review and acceptance by the EPA Project Manager. The direct outputs for this task are: 1) Project updates and information specific to the Coalition's Brownfields projects posted on the CIRI website - Brownfields Program tab, 2) A quarterly electronic newsletter distributed to all interested stakeholders, 3) Regularly scheduled information sharing/decision making meetings of the CIRI Advisory Board, 4) Project summaries for distribution at the council meetings of each Coalition Member submitted quarterly, 5) Project summaries and educational materials created for community meetings and seminars, as well as distribution to other stakeholders.

Outcomes include proper management of grant funding, oversight of the project work plan, and oversight of the effective dissemination of project information.

2bii – Budget Table (5 of 25 Points):

**Table 1 - Proposed Budget
Hazardous Substances Assessment and Petroleum Assessment Grant Activities**

(program costs only)	Task 1 Phase I Assessments & Site Eligibility	Task 2 Phase II Assessments & QAPP	Task 3 RAP Development	Task 4 Community Outreach	Task 5 Program Activities & Coalition Support	Total
Personnel ³					\$5,000	\$5,000
Travel ^{1,3}				\$1,000	\$9,000	\$10,000
Equipment						
Supplies				\$500	\$2,000	\$2,500
Contractual – Hazardous Substance (11 sites) ²	\$108,000	\$360,000	\$45,000		\$37,000	\$550,000
Contractual – Petroleum (1 site) ²	\$4,500	\$25,000			\$3,000	\$32,500
Total	\$112,500	\$385,000	\$45,000	\$1,500	\$56,000	\$600,000

¹ Includes travel for three Coalition representatives to attend national brownfields conferences, state and regional conferences and two Coalition representatives to attend site meetings (in state) with state agency staff and site owners/developers.

² Procurement of private contractual services will comply with procedures contained in 40 CFR 31.36, or for non-profits, with 40 CFR 30.40 through 30.48.

³ Personnel and Travel line items are to cover City of Virginia, MN personnel costs to administer this project.

2c. Ability to Leverage (5 Points):

For the Iron Range Coalition area, given its large number of brownfield sites, additional resources will be required to accomplish site cleanups, extend utilities and roads and prepare sites for development. The first step in acquiring these resources is to focus on the identification and assessment of these sites. This grant program funding will be used to cover the cost of collecting assessment and investigation data which is crucial for effective planning for the redevelopment of these sites.

The Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board administers four separate grant programs applicable to the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields; 1) Commercial Redevelopment and Brownfields Grant, 2) Mine land Reclamation Program, 3) Public Works Infrastructure, and 4) Commercial demolition program. The City of Virginia has already used this program in conjunction with our previous Brownfields program Assessment grant for the Staver Foundry site and the East Range Clinic. Beyond the IRRRB grant programs, this state economic development agency has provided a \$54,800 grant, partnering with the CIRI Brownfields Program to inventory brownfield sites in the Coalition area (see IRRRB commitment letter in Attachment D).

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) in both St. Louis and Itasca Counties administer a Blight Fund that assists with building demolition. The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) oversees the Contamination Assessment and Cleanup grant program that provides more than \$12 million per year (State-wide) for site assessments and cleanups. The leveraging occurs through either funding help for joint

assessment activities or through taking sites assessed under the EPA-funded assessment project on to cleanup work funded by DEED cleanup grant awards. The northern Minnesota region has a proven track record of doing just this for sites such as those noted for the City of Virginia (see Programmatic Capability Section).

In-kind services (staff assistance, database information sharing, and facility use for meetings and presentations) are also being leveraged in the project from many of the community-based partner organizations such as CIRI, Laurentian Vision Partnership, and the Northspan Group.

3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS (35 Points)

3a. Plan for Involving Targeted Community & Other Stakeholders; and Communicating Project Progress (15 Points)

3ai – Community Involvement Plan (10 of 15 Points): Since each of the communities in the assessment area is a member of the Coalition, a high level of community involvement is ensured from the outset. CIRI has already been effecting significant community engagement and implementing activities regarding brownfields site assessment needs and approaches for the Western and Central Iron Range, including conducting an on-going IRRRB-funded inventory of brownfields sites.

The Coalition uses CIRI monthly/quarterly meetings, along with their website, as effective forums for disseminating information on the assessment project and for receiving input on plans and approaches. This is a valuable venue to promote the assessment project as a useful tool to planners, developers, existing land owners and industry in the area. Key elements of community involvement are education and awareness, broadcasting, and repetition of the message from trusted sources.

3aii – Communicating Progress (5 of 15 Points): Web pages on the Laurentian Vision Partners and CIRI websites will be used to provide on-going information and background on the assessment project- both for Coalition members as well as for community members in general. Since not all households in the assessment area have Internet access, it remains essential to provide newspaper notices, posters, and postings at central locations such as township halls, post offices, libraries and/or community centers. When appropriate, information regarding the Brownfields program can be conveyed through public presentations. At these events, every effort will be made to make sure any public accommodations necessary will be met by providing language translators and/or services to accommodate people who are blind or hearing impaired as requested.

Emails can be used to make short-notice information available to the communities and Coalition members. The IRRRB, Laurentian Vision Partners, CIRI, Northspan, Saint Louis County and Itasca County Economic Development Agencies all maintain mailing lists, email lists and regular newsletters which can be used as additional resources for disseminating information about the program. The CIRI Brownfields Program will develop our own quarterly electronic newsletter to keep the stakeholders apprised of the program's plans and accomplishments. Based on this, we are confident that community members will have ready access to the workings of the Coalition through existing and planned connections.

3b. Partnerships with Government Agencies (10 Points)

3bi – Local/State/Tribal Environmental Authority (5 Points):

■ Minnesota Pollution Control Agency: The Coalition will work with the MPCA to address and evaluate potential eligible sites. The MPCA has long established brownfield

programs called the *Voluntary Investigation and Cleanup Program* and the *Petroleum Brownfield Program*. The Coalition will work with these programs when necessary to address discoveries of contamination and by consultation during development of response action plans.

3bii – Other Relevant Governmental Partnerships (5 of 10 Points):

■ *Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB)*: This agency is committed to this project in a number of ways. The IRRRB is willing to (1) provide meeting space and facilitation for public informational meetings and education about this project, (2) facilitate the collection of community feedback on proposed assessment sites, and (3) share its email and mailing address lists relative to the assessment area to assist information dissemination.

The IRRRB has also provided a \$54,800 grant as leverage site inventorying and GIS database building so the assessment work detailed in this grant application can be accomplished in a timely manner.

■ *West Mesabi Mine Planning Board (WMMPB)*: This organization is a Minnesota joint powers board that is willing to serve this program as a resource in defining areas with potential that are appropriate for brownfield assessments and to advise the Coalition and its members about land area that are planning for mining or may hold significant future potential for mining that would, therefore, not be objectives of the project.

■ *St. Louis County Environmental Services (SLC Dept. of Health)*: The County assists this program by providing technical assistance for assessments and working with communities to identify brownfield sites.

■ *Itasca County Environmental Services*: This county department also assists our Brownfields Coalition by providing technical assistance for assessments. Our program supports the county's goals as included in their comprehensive land use plan and has developed a high level of mutual cooperation.

■ *Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MNSCU)*: Their Iron Range Engineering Program, located at their Mesabi Range Community & Technical College campus in Virginia, MN, partners with local engineering firms to provide experience and employment opportunities for their students. This program is willing to partner with our Brownfields program to provide potential practical engineering experience for their students in the area of environmental services.

3c. Partnerships with Community Organizations (10 Points)

3ci Community Organization Description & Role (5 of 10 Points):

■ *Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI)*: This community organization was created to promote economic development, job creation, and wise coordinated and comprehensive planning of the Central Iron Range and its multiple communities. This group will coordinate and implement community communications and meetings for the Coalition. CIRI has provided leadership on the brownfields issue in this area by creating a Central Iron Range Brownfields program and obtaining grant funding from the Iron Range Resources agency to inventory and organize data on brownfield sites in the coalition assessment area.

■ *Laurentian Vision Partnership*: This regional Coalition includes stakeholders focused on promoting the development of productive, post-mining landscapes on the Mesabi Iron Range by cooperating in preserving lands necessary to sustain current and future mining; promoting landscape options for post mining uses; identifying and discussing new development opportunities; and providing the tools to achieve these goals. This group shares GIS land use database information with the Coalition and can assist with facilitating informational meetings

and education about brownfield site assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment. They can also help obtain community feedback on proposed assessment sites.

■ ***Minnesota Brownfields Program:*** This non-profit state-wide organization promotes, through education, research, and partnerships, the efficient cleanup and reuse of contaminated land as a means of generating economic growth, strengthening communities and enabling sustainable land use and development. They are willing to support our Coalition's efforts to identify and prioritize key sites for cleanup and redevelopment.

■ ***The Northspan Group, Inc.:*** This non-profit economic and community development organization maintains an online economic development portal and regional "Sites and Buildings" database for Northeastern Minnesota and the Iron Range area. They will assist this program by listing appropriate commercial properties that have had successful environmental assessment work completed in this database to be marketed for the area on this website.

■ ***Minnesota Power:*** This organization plays a significant role in economic development in this region as a funding partner and technical partner as well as an energy provider. During Phase II investigations, they can plan a key role in end use planning for large commercial and industrial developments.

3cii Letters of Commitment (5 of 10 Points): A letter of commitment from each of the organizations listed in the previous tables is included in Attachment D of this application.

4. PROJECT BENEFITS (25 Points)

4a. Health and/or Welfare and Environment (10 Points)

4ai -- Health and/or Welfare Benefits (5 of 10 Points): Properly identifying soil contamination before a construction project begins allows time for planning the best means for managing or treating the problem before disturbing the site. Some projects may be at sites in close proximity to residential areas or slated for development of new residential sites. The need to perform well-designed studies of sites prior to a residential development is well known to the City of Virginia, Minnesota, as they have successfully redeveloped a former mine site with real human health risks into a new residential subdivision using EPA brownfield funding along with State of Minnesota brownfield funding.

Groundwater and surface water are very closely connected in the assessment area and many former mine pits are now lakes with direct connection to the regional aquifer. Using quality site investigation data to assess the risk to groundwater and surface water created by brownfield sites will aid communities in protecting this sole source of drinking water. Ensuring that safe drinking water is available from groundwater or surface water is an important aspect of assessing area sites; however, completing adequate groundwater sampling to assess a target property is a significant undertaking and is generally avoided.

Sensitive populations. Identifying and assessing brownfields is the first step in improving the environment, moving toward cleaning up the sites that pose an elevated health risk. Any elevated environmental health risk disproportionately affects our elderly population, which has already been shown to be disproportionately high in the Coalition area.

Housing challenges. Assessing environmental limitations is a preliminary step to freeing up reusable land to expand our limited and aging housing stock.

Transportation challenges. Expanding the local housing stock will reduce the amount of people on the roads commuting to the Iron Range to work. This results in fewer car accidents and reduced commuting time for workers.

Fugitive dust. Cleaning up and redeveloping abandoned mining land will provide an overall reduction in fugitive dust, thereby improving/maintaining air quality in the region and reducing health risks, especially for older people whose immune systems may be less than optimal.

4aii – Environmental Benefits (5 of 10 Points): Historical mine-scarred lands have an overall negative effect on water quality in that old stockpiles and mine pits were abandoned prior to the mine land reclamation rules. Many of these areas remain largely un-vegetated with steep slopes and poor erosion control. The IRRRB operates the Mine Land Reclamation Program to vegetate, grade, and enhance these old mining features, but the inventory of lands requiring reclamation is large. Through well-planned redevelopment and using greenspace and storm water controls, the impact to the watershed will be improved. This Brownfields assessment program is a key component of mine land reclamation efforts.

4b. Environmental Benefits from Infrastructure Reuse/Sustainable Reuse (8 Points)

4bi – Planning, Policies, and Other Tools (5 of 8 Points): Laurentian Vision is a program of the IRRRB, a state agency; its stated mission is to transform pits and piles into lakes and landscapes. This organization, one of the key supporters of our Coalition, was created expressly to initiate planning of opportunities to reuse our local natural resources.

Beneficial reuse of tailings ponds by scam mining uses something that was previously treated as a waste, changing it into something of value. At the time when the tailings ponds were created, there were no standards for reclaiming the land. The 1980 Mine land Reclamation rules require a higher environmental standard for mine closures. Once the tailings ponds are re-mined, the scam mining company will need to adhere to a higher level of environmental standards for mine closures.

Minnesota Housing Finance Agency provides funding for housing in Minnesota, as part of their requirements for funding, each project must include energy-efficient appliances and HVAC systems. Any affordable housing projects that are built on brownfields sites will be required to adhere to those requirements.

On the Range, a regional power utility company in northeast Minnesota is endeavoring to meet a goal of creating 1/3 of their energy generating capacity being renewable. They are doing this by building a wind turbine farm, converting coal generators to natural gas, and burning wood instead of coal (biomass power). In the case of one of the recently assessed sites from our 2011 EPA assessment grant, the McCahill property is being considered for a potential solar panel farm.

Development close to the new and existing industrial facilities that employ the majority of workers in the area helps keep workers close to home, thereby minimizing long-range commuting on limited highways and roads in the area. By redeveloping properties in the existing communities, existing infrastructures such as roads, water and sewer can be used instead of developing new ones on undeveloped area. This strategy presents a more sustainable use of the land and existing infrastructure in the area. Additionally, new disturbances and associated erosion or loss of forests on undeveloped lands outside the area is minimized, creating another environmental benefit to reusing existing, disturbed lands.

4bii – Integrating Equitable Development or Livability Principles (3 of 8 Points): Supporting more residential and commercial development in the assessment area will increase the tax base by bolstering investment in the local communities. Without a means to effectively address brownfields concerns, business owners and developers are likely to avoid the area to the

detriment of the local assessment area communities and their economies which will continue to suffer.

Infrastructure projects that may have been stalled or experienced costly detours around suspect contaminated sites, can use the assessment program to investigate and develop plans to manage brownfield contamination issues while helping to keep the infrastructure projects on track. There has already been significant investment in popular recreational trails and parks in some of the communities. One example of an interesting development use of old abandoned mine land is the historical interpretive center in Chisholm called Minnesota Discovery Center (MDC, formerly Ironworld Discovery Center) which overlooks one of the historical mine pits and sits atop an old, abandoned underground mine. The MDC facility includes outdoor displays on mining equipment, history, and technology. Amenities such as these are an important attribute to the area by helping to establish features that build community attractiveness while offering local green spaces and recreational opportunities. Expanding on these features would require additional site assessment work that could be aided by the assessment project -yet another way in which the assessment project can provide economic benefit to the assessment area.

Population Changes. Redeveloping land to attract new industry increases economic opportunities which allow people to stay here to make their living and/or move here to do the same. Retaining our working population is a critical factor in economic development.

High unemployment rates. Attracting new industry by having usable land can only improve unemployment rates. The first step in creating usable land from historic mine-scarred land is the environmental assessment process.

Long commutes to work. Lack of adequate housing is causing many workers to endure the expensive hardship of a long commute from communities outside the region. As we work toward freeing up land for new housing, people will have the ability to choose to live closer to work.

4c. Economic and Community Benefits (long-term benefits) (7 Points)

4ci – Economic or Non-Economic Benefits (5 Points): Attracting businesses is a key activity for the Coalition communities' economic development efforts. These businesses will create new jobs which will attract employees who want to live in the community. This will expand the tax base and increase/maintain school populations, both of which are long-term benefits of a brownfields assessment. By removing some of the risk and/or cost of development, more businesses will find locating on the Iron Range appealing.

4cii – Job Creation Potential: Partnerships with Workforce Development Programs (2 of 7 Points): The Iron Range Engineering (IRE) program (<http://www.ire.mnscu.edu/>) from Mesabi Range Community & Technical College partners with local engineering firms to provide meaningful engineering projects for their students to attain practical engineering experience. This program is a great fit with the CIRI Brownfields Program, potentially providing students with experience in the environmental engineering services area of practice. The CIRI Brownfields Program will work with the IRE Program to identify opportunities to develop an informal mentoring program with the environmental consultants involved in this program.

5. PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY AND PAST PERFORMANCE (40 Points)

5a. Programmatic Capability (28 Points)

The City of Virginia has a solid track record on the use of both state and federal loans and grants. The Virginia City Administrator, Mr. John Tourville, will work closely with EPA Region V staff and the Project Director to ensure proper contractual services procurement and

performance of the technical work. These individuals will be knowledgeable of the cooperative agreement executed by the City of Virginia.

The city of Virginia (the grant applicant) has successfully managed federal funding for infrastructure projects. The City of Virginia Enterprise Mine Redevelopment project used an EPA Brownfield Assessment Pilot to accomplish residential and commercial redevelopment beginning in 2001. Virginia has also used Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Contamination Cleanup dollars to successfully investigate and cleanup a former gas manufacturing plant resulting in the creation of new commercial development space.

The CIRI Brownfields Program will be a key resource to assist the Coalition with its programmatic implementation and public involvement activities. CIRI is a ten-year-old statutory 501c3 nonprofit organization comprised of all of the Coalition member communities, regional and state government agencies, community members, private business and mining industry members. CIRI has successfully managed grant-funded projects through the State of Minnesota, Blandin Foundation and the IRRRB.

Key human assets for this project will include Virginia's City Administrator, Virginia's Finance Director, the CIRI Brownfields Coalition Project Director, CIRI's Brownfields Program Advisory Board, and the environmental consultants. The City Administrator will be responsible for overseeing the grant administration, including the procurement of the consultants. The City Finance Director will make sure all invoices are processed appropriately. The Project Director will coordinate the efforts of the environmental consultants, the CIRI Brownfields Board, and provide grant reporting, budget oversight, and coordinate community outreach and communication efforts. The Environmental Consultants will provide the assessment and environmental reporting and planning services. The CIRI Advisory Board will facilitate the site selection process. The team we created for the last assessment grant worked well together and made significant progress toward addressing our brownfields challenges. We are confident our new team can continue to do the same.

5b. Audit Findings (2 Points)

Findings of OMB circular A-133 for the City of Virginia have been positive and the City has never been required to comply with any high risk terms and conditions.

5c. Past Performance and Accomplishments (10 Points)

5ci. Currently or Has Ever Received and EPA Brownfields Grant (10 Points):

5ci1 – Compliance with grant requirements (5 of 10 Points):

Grant reporting was done on a consistent and timely basis and the ACRES database was kept up-to-date. All funds were effectively and appropriately expended.

5ci2 – Accomplishments (5 of 10 Points): The CIRI Brownfields Program received \$726,500 under the 2011 EPA Brownfields Assessment grant. The environmental consultants completed 14 Phase I assessments, and 11 Phase II assessments. Of the 14 properties that received assessments, 3 of them were residential projects, 6 were industrial projects, 4 were commercial ventures, and 1 was a recreational project. All fourteen have development plans and are poised to move forward in their development because environmental limitations have been removed. The development of one of the industrial projects is complete, at full production and providing full-time local employment.

Another significant accomplishment of the last grant program is having 6 new communities join the Coalition. These communities saw the benefits of the Brownfields assessment program in their neighboring communities and realized the benefit this program could provide for them.

Appendix 3 Assessment Other Factors Checklist

Name of Applicant: City of Virginia, MN

Please identify (with an X) which, if any of the below items apply to your community or your project as described in your proposal. To be considered for an Other Factor, you must include the page number where each applicable factor is discussed in your proposal. EPA will verify these disclosures prior to selection and may consider this information during the selection process. If this information is not clearly discussed in your narrative proposal or in any other attachments, it will not be considered during the selection process.

Other Factor	Page #
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community population is 10,000 or less.	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Federally recognized Indian tribe.	
<input type="checkbox"/> United States territory.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant will assist a Tribe or territory.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Targeted brownfield sites are impacted by mine-scarred land.	1-4, 13-14
<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted brownfield sites are contaminated with controlled substances.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Recent natural disaster(s) (2006 or later) occurred within community, causing significant community economic and environmental distress.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Project is primarily focusing on Phase II assessments.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant demonstrates firm leveraging commitments for facilitating brownfield project completion by identifying amounts and contributors of funding in the proposal and have included documentation.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Community experienced manufacturing plant/power plant closure(s) (2008 or later) tied to the targeted brownfield sites or project area, including communities experiencing auto plant/power plant closures due to bankruptcy or economic disruptions.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Recent (2008 or later) significant economic disruption (<u>unrelated</u> to a natural disaster or manufacturing/auto plant/power plant closure) has occurred within community, resulting in a significant percentage loss of community jobs and tax base.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant is one of the 12 recipients, or a core partner/implementation strategy party, of a "manufacturing community" designation provided by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) under the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP). To be considered, applicants must clearly demonstrate in the proposal the nexus between their IMCP designation and the Brownfield activities. Additionally, applicants must attach documentation which demonstrate either designation as one of the 12 recipients, or relevant pages from a recipient's IMCP proposal which lists/describes the core partners and implementation strategy parties. A core partner/implementation strategy party is a local partner organization/jurisdiction that will carry out the proposed strategy, as demonstrated in letters of commitment or memoranda of understanding which documents their contributions, roles, and responsibilities to the partnership. EDA may provide to	

Attachment A

Threshold Documentation

CIRI Brownfields Program – EPA Assessment Grant Application – Threshold Criteria

III.C.1 Applicant Eligibility: The City of Virginia, Minnesota is a general purpose unit of local government and will serve in the leadership role of the Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) Brownfields Assessment Coalition (Coalition) for this project. The City Administrator, Mr. John Tourville, has accepted fiscal and reporting responsibility for the project. All the members of this Coalition are cities or townships located on the Mesabi Iron Range (Iron Range) located in northeastern Minnesota. Since the early 1940s, when it became evident that an inexhaustible supply of high-grade iron ore did not exist, the communities of the Iron Range have worked together for the greater good of the region to plan for and promote economic diversity for the region's future generations. From an economic development perspective, the Iron Range is fundamentally considered to be one large community comprised of many cities and towns sharing common economic and social conditions. A rehabilitation program benefiting any one area of this community would be a benefit to all (Former MN Governor Harold Stasson, 1941). With this philosophy as an underpinning, Iron Range communities have worked in collaboration on many successful economic development initiatives over the decades the 1940s. A need to reuse brownfields has emerged as important to allow for growth and redevelopment in our communities.

The following table lists all members of the Coalition. The Coalition members listed on the left side of the following table have identified brownfield sites ready to be assessed and have provided letters of commitment, stating their desire to participate in this program if funding is awarded. The members of the Coalition on the right do not have the needed in-house expertise required to properly identify and inventory their brownfield sites and will need assistance with this process. Each member of the coalition is an organized city or township and their resolutions and letters of commitment are included in **Attachment H** of this application.

Central Iron Range Initiative Brownfields Assessment Coalition Communities			
Identified sites ready for assessment		Need assistance identifying sites needing assessment	
Bovey City, MN	Member	Aurora City, MN	New Member
Buhl City, MN	Member	Babbitt City, MN	New Member
Chisholm City, MN	Member	Balkan Township, MN	Member
Coleraine City, MN	Member	Biwabik City, MN	New Member
Eveleth City, MN	Member	Cook City, MN	New Member
Gilbert City, MN	Member	Ely City, MN	New Member
Keewatin City, MN	Member	Hoyt Lakes City, MN	New Member
Nashwauk City, MN	Member	Lone Pine Township, MN	Member
Virginia City, MN	Applicant	Marble City, MN	Member
		Taconite City, MN	Member

III.C.2 Letter from the State or Tribal Environmental Authority: A letter from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency acknowledging notification of the Coalition's intent to submit an application to the EPA for a Brownfields Assessment grant is included in **Attachment B** of this application.

III.C.3 Community Involvement: The Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) will continue to serve as the advisory board for the Coalition's assessment program. CIRI is a community collaborative that is literally and figuratively changing the landscape of the region (cirimn.com). There is a Brownfields Program tab on the home page of CIRI's website where community outreach and program updates can be accessed by community and program stakeholders.

The CIRI Brownfields Program, as a coalition of 15 communities, was tremendously successful in the first grant program (2011), assessing a variety of sites within the assessment area, effectively investing EPA funds, meeting the goals of the Coalition and the goals of the EPA Brownfields Program. Some of this success can be attributed to being able to tap into the pre-existing intercommunity infrastructure of community leaders on the Iron Range. The CIRI Brownfields Program effectively used existing community partnerships, helping the coalition in its cooperative efforts to improve our region.

The current Coalition has grown to include 19 communities and continues to consider community outreach a crucial component to the overall success and expansion of the CIRI Brownfields Program.

Attachment B

Letter from the State Environmental Authority



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

520 Lafayette Road North | St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194 | 651-296-6300

800-657-3864 | 651-282-5332 TTY | www.pca.state.mn.us | Equal Opportunity Employer

December 16, 2014

Mr. John Tourville
City Administrator
City of Virginia
327 First Street South
Virginia, MN 55792-2623

RE: Central Iron Range Initiative FY2015 Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant Application
FY2015 Letter of Support from the MPCA's Brownfield Programs

Dear Mr. Tourville:

On behalf of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), we are writing to acknowledge and support the City of Virginia's proposed assessment activities in fulfillment of the criteria of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Fiscal Year 2015 Brownfields Coalition Assessment Grant application guidelines.

The City of Virginia has informed the MPCA that they intend to conduct petroleum and hazardous substances assessment activities on sites throughout the city. The City of Virginia intends to focus the assessment activities within 22 communities that have joined the Central Iron Range Initiatives Brownfields Program Coalition.

The City of Virginia has shown that they can work closely with the MPCA to successfully complete Brownfields projects. The MPCA is supportive of the City of Virginia's application for the Brownfields Coalition Assessment Grants. Should the grant be awarded, the MPCA will continue its partnerships with the City of Virginia to help them revitalize the environmental and economic climate in the city.

If you have any questions, please call Shanna Schmitt at 651-757-2697 (shanna.schmitt@state.mn.us) or Stacey Hendry-Van Patten at 651-757-2425 (stacey.vanpatten@state.mn.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shanna Schmitt".

Shanna Schmitt, P.G.
Hydrogeologist
Site Remediation & Redevelopment Section
Remediation Division

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacey Hendry-Van Patten".

607 Stacey Hendry-Van Patten
Program Administrator
Petroleum Remediation & Redevelopment Section
Remediation Division

SS/SHV:ls

cc: Keary Cragan, EPA Region 5

Attachment C

Documentation of applicant eligibility if other than city, county,
state, or tribe

N/A

Attachment D

Letters of commitment from all community organizations
identified in the community engagement and partnerships
ranking criteria

Governmental Organizations

Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board
Itasca County Environmental Services
Iron Range Engineering - MN State Colleges & Universities
St. Louis County Environmental Services
Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board

Non-Governmental Organizations

Central Iron Range Initiative
Laurentian Vision Partnership
Minnesota Brownfields
Minnesota Power
The Northspan Group



December 10, 2014

Mrs. Edie Findeis Cromwell
Environmental Management Support, Inc.
8601 Georgia Avenue, Suite 500
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mrs. Cromwell:

Please accept this letter in support of the Central Iron Range Assessment Coalition (the Coalition) and their multi-community U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Assessment Grant Application.

Current and future Minnesota mine lands are regulated under State environmental statutes, rules and permitting. Therefore, these sites will not pose brownfield concerns. However, the first 100 years of mining occurred before the 1980 reclamation statutes were enacted, and these lands encompass vast areas of our region. These mine lands fall under the EPA's definition of a brownfield, and are eligible under the Assessment and Cleanup Grant programs. EPA's programs are important to providing an opportunity for the future use of these lands, and will offer sustainability and growth opportunities for our communities.

It is crucial to the economies of the Iron Range, State of Minnesota, the Midwest and the entire United States of America, that current mining and future mineral deposits are protected and preserved for mining. Mining must occur where the minerals exist, and these lands must not be impacted by developments that preclude the nation's access to these critical resources. There is a 100-mile long, but very narrow "Iron Formation," where the valuable iron ore and taconite mineral deposits are located. Along this stretch of land are also the numerous cities and communities that make up the region in northeastern Minnesota known as the Mesabi Iron Range. Due to the strategic role these natural resources play, preserving "Iron Formation" lands for future mining is imperative, but the local communities must be allowed to grow and prosper as well. These two objectives can provide a venue for land-use conflicts, this grant will mitigate the problem by providing brownfield sites that communities can safely use for redevelopment. Approving the Iron Range Assessment Coalition grant is the first step in creating opportunities for future community development within our Iron Range communities.

The Coalition, made up of Iron Range cities and townships will work together on this project. The City of Virginia will act as fiscal agent. Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) has awarded the Central Iron Range Assessment Coalition a Commercial Redevelopment Grant of \$54,800. In addition, this Coalition proved its capabilities to successfully completing an initial \$726,500 EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant in 2014.



Iron Range Resources &
Rehabilitation Board
P.O. Box 441
Eveleth, MN 55734-0441
(218) 735-3000

An Equal Opportunity Employer

IRRRB.org


This grant will leverage funds to enable the Coalition to welcome new additional members to continue to maintain and expand a GIS database, conduct site selection and planning, and implement data management. Additionally, the Coalition will work with local governing units to identify sites, maintain a website, perform accounting and grant compliance, attend meetings, prepare documents and overall administration. This work could have a major impact on the future of community and economic development in the region.

Since the late 1990's we have worked with Coalition member communities and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on the assessment, cleanup and redevelopment of numerous Brownfield sites. The Coalition member communities have shown that they can work together well to successfully complete Brownfield projects.

IRRRB is a State of Minnesota economic development agency whose mission is to promote and invest in business, community and workforce development for the betterment of northeastern Minnesota. Re-use of Brownfield sites as commercial, residential, recreational or green space will further our efforts to create jobs and increase tax base in sustainable communities across the region. These projects also mitigate potential health or environmental risks and use existing or new infrastructure to reduce urban sprawl, thereby creating opportunities for Smart Growth in communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this Brownfield Assessment Grant Application. We will continue to work in partnership with the Coalition to revitalize the communities, the economy and the environment of northeastern Minnesota's Iron Range region. If you have any questions, please call Laurentian Vision Partnership Coordinator Jim Plummer, or Executive Director of Development Steve Peterson at 1-800-765-5043.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Sertich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tony" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Sertich".

Tony Sertich
Commissioner

ITASCA COUNTY

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Zoning/Solid Waste

Itasca County Courthouse

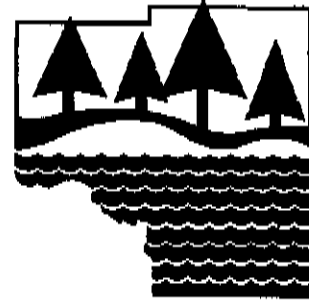
123 N.E. 4th Street

GRAND RAPIDS, MINNESOTA 55744-2600

Office (218) 327-2857

Fax (218) 327-7331

www.co.itasca.mn.us



December 10, 2014

Mr. John Tourville
City Administrator
City of Virginia, Minnesota
327 1st Street South
Virginia, MN 55792

Dear Mr. Tourville,

Itasca County Environmental Services includes the offices of solid waste, planning and zoning. Please accept this letter in support of your efforts to redevelop brownfields as commercial industrial, residential and green space across the Iron Range.

The history of cooperation among the Brownfields Coalition members, that spanned both St. Louis and Itasca Counties during the 2011 to 2014 US Environmental Protection Agencies Brownfields Assessment Grant cycle, is encouraging for the future of intelligent economic development in our region. Many of the communities in Itasca County are currently engaged in a comprehensive planning process making the timing of this brownfield redevelopment perfect to further the discussion of mitigating potential environmental health threats and contributing to sustainable, healthy communities through redevelopment.

Please consider keep us involved in your efforts and don't hesitate to contact me with questions or for support.

Sincerely,

Dan Swenson

Environmental Services Administrator

Cc: Kevin Z. Gray, County Administrator, St. Louis County
Barbara Hayden, Director, St. Louis County Planning and Development Department
Scott Allison, Chairman Central Iron Range initiative



December 15, 2014

Iron Range Engineering Letter of Commitment to the CIRI Brownfields Program

It is my pleasure to commit Iron Range Engineering to the CIRI Brownfields Program. Our IRE program partners with local engineering firms to provide meaningful engineering projects for students to attain practical engineering experience. This accomplishes the following important objectives:

- a. Students gain experience in specific areas of engineering which can help them determine their specific career interests.
- b. Students gain experience working with local engineering firms, which can help them determine if a position with that specific firm would be a good employment fit.
- c. Local engineering firms gain working experience with the student, which can help them determine if offering a permanent position to the student would be a good fit.
- d. By bringing future engineers together with local potential employers of those engineers, we are endeavoring to keep our engineering talent residing and working in our communities.

Specifically, our program would appreciate partnering with the CIRI Brownfields Program to provide students with experience in the environmental engineering services area of practice.

The IRE areas of commitment include:

- a. We will work with the CIRI Brownfields Coalition to identify opportunities to develop an informal mentoring program with the environmental consultants involved in this program.
- b. We will be willing to participate in CIRI Brownfields Coalition meetings, as appropriate, presenting information regarding the partnership as requested.

The following is a link to a short video about our program: <http://www.ire.mnscu.edu/>

Sincerely,

Ronald R. Ulseth

Ronald R. Ulseth, P.E.
Instructor and Co- Director, Iron Range Engineering
ron.ulseth@ire.mnscu.edu



Saint Louis County

Environmental Services Department • 307 First Street South, Suite 115 • Virginia, MN 55792
Phone: (218) 749-9703 or 1-800-450-9278 • Fax: (218) 749-0650 Email: stlawrencem@stlouiscountymn.gov

Mark St. Lawrence
Director

December 15, 2014

Ms. Edie Findreis Cromwell
Environmental Management Support, Inc.
8601 Georgia Avenue, Suite 500
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Ms. Cromwell

St. Louis County continues to support the efforts of the Iron Range Brownfield Coalition. The cooperation of the Coalition communities, St. Louis and Itasca counties, and other supporting economic development entities all organized through the Central Iron Range Initiative is clearly a model for achieving successful economic development and environmental improvement outcomes. Projects completed during the last several years, including the Alice Location in Eveleth and the Staver Foundry in Virginia, have eliminated blight, cleaned up the environment and are resulting in real economic development.

We understand that the City of Virginia, Minnesota, will be the Fiscal Agent on the 2015 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfield Assessment Grant and will submit the grant application on behalf of the Coalition.

Please consider St. Louis County an active Coalition partner ready to provide project support when needed. Please contact me at (218) 749-0647 if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Mark St. Lawrence
Director, St. Louis County Environmental Services Department

Cc: John Tourville, City Administrator, City of Virginia
Scott Allison, Chairman, Central Iron Range Initiative
Kevin Z. Gray, County Administrator, St. Louis County
Barbara Hayden, Director, St. Louis County Planning and Community Development Department

"Maximizing the potential of St. Louis County's employees while
providing them with a safe and healthful workplace"



Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board

P.O. Box 166
Bovey, MN 55709




Resolution Regarding Brownfields Coalition


WHEREAS the Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board (WMMPB) is a Minnesota joint powers board comprised of fourteen local government units on the western part of the Mesabi Iron Range, and
WHEREAS the Virginia City Administrator is preparing to submit by December 19, 2014 a brownfield assessment grant application to the US Environmental Protection Agency on behalf of the Central Iron Range brownfield coalition, for which the City of Virginia, Minnesota, will be the fiscal agent if the grant application is approved, and
WHEREAS WMMPB as a joint powers board acts in the interests of its members including the objectives and purposes for which WMMPB was formed including for environmental protection and orderly development of public and private lands; to protect said lands from uncontrolled and unplanned development, pollution or degradation through the preparation and adoption of comprehensive local plans and ordinances; to provide for the recreational use of said lands; and to identify areas of high future mining potential and to preserve these lands for future mining opportunities, and
WHEREAS WMMPB feels that the brownfields grant can done in a manner that is consistent with WMMPB's objectives and should be supported,
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board will be a member of the Central Iron Range Brownfield Redevelopment Program Coalition (the Coalition) created as a collaboration of local government entities for the purpose of seeking and implementing a US EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WMMPB supports the US EPA Brownfield Assessment grant application which will be submitted to the US EPA on or before December 19, 2014 by the City of Virginia, Minnesota, as fiscal agent on behalf of the Coalition, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval by the EPA of the Coalition's application, WMMPB may enter into an appropriate Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia with regard to the above-referenced collaborative brownfield assessment project and will comply with applicable laws and regulations and with provisions of such Memorandum of Understanding into which it enters, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair of WMMPB is hereby authorized to execute such agreements as are necessary to implement the project(s) on behalf of WMMPB.

The above resolution was adopted by the Western Mesabi Mine Planning Boards on December 11, 2014.

SIGNED:


Leo Trunt, Chair

WITNESSED


R.D. LEARMONT, COORDINATOR

A Joint Powers Board

Arbo Township
City of Bovey
City of Calumet
City of Cohasset
City of Coleraine

City of Grand Rapids
Greenway Township
Itasca County
City of Keewatin
City of LaPrairie

Lone Pine Township
City of Marble
City of Nashwauk
Trout Lake Township

Officers:

Leo Trunt, Chair
David Lotti, Vice Chair
Carter Pettersen,
Secretary/Treasurer

Staff:

R.D. Learmont, Interim
Coordinator
Deborah Rantala,
Recording Secy/Treasurer
e-mail to: dlearmon@27.net



Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board

P.O. Box 166
Bovey, MN 55709



December 11, 2014

Mr. John Tourville, Administrator
City of Virginia
327 1st Street South
Virginia, MN 55792

Dear Mr. Tourville:

This letter confirms that the Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board (WMMPB), a Minnesota joint powers board comprised of fourteen local government units on the western part of the Mesabi Iron Range, has resolved to support and participate in the Central Iron Range Brownfield Coalition assessment grant application to the US Environmental Protection Agency. We understand that the City of Virginia, Minnesota, will be the coalition leader for this project and will submit the grant application on behalf of the Coalition on or before December 19, 2014.

WMMPB is prepared to serve as a resource for the brownfield coalition and for WMMPB members, if the grant is awarded, including those who are coalition members, in defining areas with potential that are appropriate for brownfield assessments and to advise the Coalition and its members about land areas that are planned for mining or that may hold significant future potential for mining that would therefore not be objectives of the project. Some WMMPB members have sites which may become part of the assessment process and WMMPB may be able to also assist in identifying such sites.

Thank you to the City of Virginia for willingness to serve as fiscal agent for the brownfields grant and, ultimately, to the U.S. EPA for consideration of this brownfield assessment grant application. WMMPB and its members are pleased to work in partnership with the Central Iron Range Brownfield Coalition to revitalize the communities, the economy, and the environment of Northeastern Minnesota's Iron Range region. Please contact me or WMMPB's coordinator if you have any questions and as contact people for the program.

Sincerely,

Leo Trunt, Chair

A Joint Powers Board

Arbo Township
City of Bovey
City of Calumet
City of Cohasset
City of Coleraine

City of Grand Rapids
Greenway Township
Itasca County
City of Keewatin
City of LaPrairie

Lone Pine Township
City of Marble
City of Nashwauk
Trout Lake Township

Officers:

Leo Trunt, Chair
David Lotti, Vice Chair
Carter Pettersen,
Secretary/Treasurer

Staff:

R.D. Learmont, Interim
Coordinator
Deborah Rantala,
Recording Secy/Treasurer
e-mail to: dlearmon@2z.net



December 15, 2014

Mrs. Edie Findeis Cromwell
Environmental Management Support, Inc.
8601 Georgia Avenue, Suite 500
Silver Springs, MD 20910

Dear Mrs. Cromwell,

This letter confirms that the Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) supports the Central Iron Range Initiative Brownfields Coalition (Coalition) assessment grant application to the US Environmental Protection Agency. We understand that the City of Virginia will be the Coalition leader and will submit the grant application on behalf of the Coalition. The application will be submitted on or before December 19, 2014.

If the grant is awarded, CIRI will be prepared to coordinate and implement community communications and meetings for the Coalition. CIRI has provided leadership on the previous brownfield grant program implementation by creating the original Central Iron Range Brownfields Coalition and obtaining grant money from the Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) to organize the original effort to inventory and organize data on the brownfields sites in the Coalition assessment area.

CIRI will continue efforts to provide technical assistance and to assist in establishing priorities within and between the Coalition communities. CIRI has a meeting forum to share information as well as to assist in scheduling site assessment work. Our official CIRI web site will continue to be available to post up-to-date information on a project by project basis. Those communities listed in the right hand column do not have technical assistance available to them. By working together we can share information among all members.

Central Iron Range Brownfields Coalition Communities

Identified sites ready for assessment		Need assistance identifying sites needing assessment	
City of Virginia, MN	Applicant	City of Hoyt Lakes, MN	New Member
City of Chisholm, MN	Member	City of Taconite, MN	Member
City of Eveleth, MN	Member	City of Babbitt, MN	New Member
City of Buhl, MN	Member	City of Biwabik, MN	New Member
City of Coleraine, MN	Member	Township of Lone Pine, MN	Member
City of Nashwauk, MN	Member	City of Cook, MN	New Member
City of Ely, MN	New Member	City of Aurora, MN	New Member
City of Keewatin, MN	Member	Township of Balkan, MN	Member
City of Gilbert, MN	Member	City of Marble, MN	Member
City of Bovey, MN	Member		

Thank you for your consideration of this Brownfields Assessment Grant Application. We are pleased to continue to work in partnership with the Central Iron Range Initiative Brownfields Coalition to revitalize the communities, the economy and the environment of Northeastern Minnesota's Iron Range Region. Please contact me at 218-969-5192 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


John A. Fedo, Founding CIRI Board Member

Laurentian Vision Partnership

Transforming mines and mills into lakes and landscapes

December 5, 2014

Mrs. Edle Findeis Cromwell
Environmental Management Support, Inc.
8601 Georgia Avenue, Suite 500
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mrs. Cromwell:

Please accept this letter from Laurentian Vision Partnership in support of the Central Iron Range Brownfields Assessment Coalition (the Coalition) and their multi-community U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Assessment Grant Application.

Laurentian Vision Partnership is a coalition of mining, business, government, education, professional and community interests representing all parts of the Iron Range, which promotes sustainable mining and the reshaping of mining sites into productive future landscapes. It facilitates discussion and decision making among all interests, and it helps identify lands for economic, recreation, and resource uses that meet mining and community goals.

Laurentian Vision Partnership's mission is to:

- Preserve lands necessary to sustain current and future mining
- Promote landscape options for post mining uses
- Identifying and discussing new development opportunities.
- Providing the tools to achieve these goals.

The Brownfield Assessment Grant will enable petroleum and hazardous substance assessment activities on sites in communities across northeastern Minnesota's Iron Range, with an emphasis on historical mine land. Past, current and future mining operations limit the amount of land available for development in Iron Range communities. It is essential that these Brownfield sites become available for redevelopment.

Based on Laurentian Vision Partnership's ongoing and direct relationship with the Coalition and the successful completion of a EPA brownfield coalition assessment grant from 2011 through 2014, we are confident they will make this project a success. The City of Virginia will be the fiscal agent and has experience acting in this capacity. The Coalition member communities have shown that they can work together closely to successfully complete Brownfield projects.

The re-use of Brownfield sites as commercial, residential, recreational or green space, as already proven with the successful grant 2011 to 2014, will continue to further our efforts to create jobs and increase

tax base in sustainable communities across the region. These projects also mitigate potential health or environmental risks and use existing or new infrastructure to reduce urban sprawl, thereby creating opportunities for Smart Growth in communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this Brownfield Assessment Grant Application. We will continue to work in partnership with the Coalition to revitalize the communities, the economy and the environment of northeastern Minnesota's Iron Range region. If you have any questions, please call me at (218) 274-7006. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Plummer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jim Plummer,
Laurentian Vision Partnership Coordinator

MinnesotaBrownfields

December 15, 2014

Mr. John Tourville
City Administrator
City of Virginia, Minnesota
327 1st Street South
Virginia, MN 55792

RE: FY15 EPA Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant Proposal

Dear Mr. Tourville:

This letter expresses Minnesota Brownfields support of the Coalition Grant Proposal by communities along Minnesota's Mesabi Iron Range from Coleraine to Ely for \$600,000 in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield Coalition Assessment funds.

Minnesota Brownfields' is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Our mission is to promote, through education, research, and partnerships, the efficient cleanup and reuse of contaminated land as a means of generating economic growth, strengthening communities and enabling sustainable land use and development. In partnership with Kansas State University and the EPA's Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities (TAB) program, we assist Minnesota communities in navigating the complex cleanup and redevelopment process via brownfields workshops and other on-call local assistance. Through our TAB role, Minnesota Brownfields can support this coalition of Mesabi Iron Range communities' efforts to identify and prioritize key sites for cleanup and redevelopment.

A prior Coalition Brownfield Assessment project for this area successfully completed, identifying the need for additional brownfield assessments. Additional EPA Assessment funds would assist Iron Range communities in advancing redevelopment of a wide range of types of sites, removing environmental hazards, creating jobs, and benefitting community residents. Minnesota Brownfields strongly encourages the award of EPA Assessment funds to this Mesabi Iron Range community coalition. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at 651-307-4371 or via email at: mfaust@mnbrownfields.org.

Sincerely,



Martha Faust
Executive Director



• **minnesota power** / 30 west superior street / duluth, minnesota 55802-2093 / 218-722-5642 / www.mnpower.com

December 17, 2014

Ms. Edie Findeis Cromwell
Environmental Management Support, Inc.
8601 Georgia Avenue, Suite 500
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Ms. Findeis Cromwell:

Please accept this letter in support of the Central Iron Range Brownfields Assessment Coalition (the Coalition) and their multi-community U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \$600,000 Brownfield Assessment Grant Application. The Coalition has demonstrated their capacity to use EPA dollars wisely to accomplish the Agency's brownfield redevelopment program goals.

As the primary electric service provider to these communities, Minnesota Power is well aware of the limited industrial property well suited for new development. The Coalition has designed a proactive approach to evaluating sites and beginning a process that will allow these properties to be put back into active use. The Iron Range is poised for growth and needs to have sites ready for development to meet the increasingly short development timeframes businesses looking to expand in the area demand.

Because of its past success, the Coalition has expanded and is now made up a "Cross Range" of 19 Iron Range cities and townships working together on this project. The City of Virginia will act as fiscal agent. The Coalition member communities have shown that they can work together closely to successfully complete Brownfield projects.

Re-use of Brownfield sites as commercial, residential, recreational or green space will further our efforts to create jobs and increase tax base in sustainable communities across the region. These projects also mitigate potential health or environmental risks and use existing or new infrastructure to reduce urban sprawl. We can play a key role in these projects, especially when it comes to end use planning for redevelopment.

Minnesota Power plays a strong role in regional economic development, having worked successfully in partnership with the "Cross Range" Coalition to revitalize the communities, the economy, and the environment of northeastern Minnesota's Iron Range region. If you have any questions, please call me at (218) 723-3905. Thank you for your consideration of this Brownfield Assessment Grant Application.

Sincerely,

Nancy Aronson Norr
Director – Regional Development



December 15, 2014

Ms. Edie Findeis Cromwell
Environmental Management Support, Inc.
8601 Georgia Avenue, Suite 500
Silver Spring, MD 20910

221 West First Street
Duluth, MN 55802
218-722-5545
In MN: 1-800-232-0707
Fax: 218-529-7592
E-mail: info@northspan.org

RE: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for their FY 2015 Brownfield Assessment Grant Program

Dear Ms. Findeis Cromwell:

Please accept this letter in support of a \$600,000, three year grant request by the Iron Range Brownfields Assessment Coalition (the Coalition) for a collaborative, multi-community, FY 2015 Brownfield Assessment Grant through the City of Virginia as the Coalition's Applicant. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant funds would be used to assess contamination conditions on existing and former mining sites and other suspected locations for redevelopment and productive reuse of these lands. This is a follow-on request to a successful past EPA award in which assessment work was instrumental in advancing redevelopment of a wide range of sites helping commercial, recreational, former mineland and proposed residential development sites. More work remains to be completed.

The Northspan Group, Inc. is a private, non-profit development corporation that works on economic and community development projects serving our clients and their service areas since 1985. Our mission is to improve the economic well-being of our clients and their service areas. Northspan has professional staff with expertise in:

- Business development and finance
- Community project and funding development
- Marketing, research and business recruitment and retention
- Organizational development and strategic planning facilitation
- Workforce/talent development and retention

Northspan is involved in several economic and community development projects across the Iron Range and understands the need and opportunities associated with the availability of this EPA funding. With the growth and expansion of existing mining operations and several major new large scale mining and other development projects being planned or under construction, redevelopment of Brownfield sites will be critical to addressing future land development needs of various types. That's why we strongly endorse this collaborative, community driven initiative. As part of the project, we are committed to


creative solutions for business and community development

assist this effort by listing appropriate commercial properties that have had successful environmental assessment work completed on the region's online economic development portal and regional "Sites and Buildings" data base which we maintain and support for Northeast Mn and the Iron Range area. This award winning site and its data base are used by prospective businesses, business startups, location consultants and our regional development community to identify potential development sites for locating new or expanding businesses in the region. The site has statewide and national exposure through its multiple system links and marketing efforts.

The Coalition, made up of nineteen (19) Iron Range cities and townships along a 100 mile corridor, will work together on this project. The project area and number of communities and townships involved has grown recognizing the significant interest and need for this work. The City of Virginia will serve as the fiscal agent and has administered past federal grant awards successfully. Coalition member communities have already shown that they can work together, produce positive results and will continue to work on a collaborative basis to successfully position and complete more Brownfield projects that will make a difference.

Thank you for your consideration of this important Brownfield Assessment Grant Application. We will continue to work in partnership with the Coalition to revitalize the communities, the economy and the environment of Northeastern Minnesota's Iron Range region. Please contact me at 218-529-7561 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Lasky", written over a horizontal line.

Randy Lasky
President

Attachment E

Documentation indicating leveraged funds are
committed to the project

N/A

Attachment F

Justification for requested waiver of the \$200,000 limit for a
site-specific assessment, if applicable

N/A

Attachment G

Property-specific determination request, if applicable.

N/A

Attachment H

Letters of commitment from assessment coalition members,
if applicable

Coalition Members

City of Aurora, MN
City of Babbitt, MN
Township of Balkan, MN
City of Biwabik, MN
City of Bovey, MN
City of Buhl, MN
City of Chisholm, MN
City of Coleraine, MN
City of Cook, MN
City of Ely, MN
City of Eveleth, MN
City of Gilbert, MN
City of Hoyt Lakes, MN
City of Keewatin, MN
Township of Lone Pine, MN
City of Marble, MN
City of Nashwauk, MN
City of Taconite, MN
City of Virginia, MN



(218) 229-2614

FAX (218) 229-3198

16 W. 2ND AVE. N., P.O. BOX 160, AURORA, MN 55705

"Minnesota's Star of the North"

info@ci.aurora.mn.us

December 15, 2014

Mr. John Tourville
City Administrator
City of Virginia, Minnesota
327 1st Street South
Virginia, MN 55792

Dear Mr. Tourville,

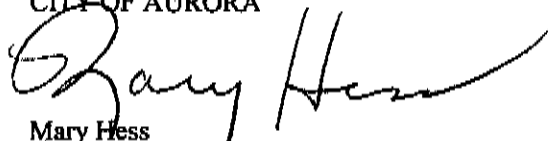
This letter confirms that the City Council of Aurora, Minnesota has resolved to participate as a member of the Central Iron Range Brownfields Program Coalition (Coalition) and will support seeking a Brownfields Assessment Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency.

We understand that the City of Virginia, Minnesota will be the Coalition leader and will submit the grant application on behalf of the Coalition. The application will be submitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency on or before December 19, 2014.

If the grant is awarded funding, the City of Aurora, Minnesota will be prepared to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia, Minnesota for the community-wide coalition assessment project.

We appreciate the City of Virginia's efforts to act as the fiscal agent for the Coalition members and we look forward to working together on this project. We have assigned the following person as our community's Brownfields Program contact person:

Sincerely,
CITY OF AURORA


Mary Hess
Mayor

Enclosure - Resolution

CITY OF AURORA, MINNESOTA

Resolution No.2014-37

Resolution supporting the US EPA Brownfield Assessment grant application to be submitted by the City of Virginia, and authorizing the City of Aurora to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia for a community-wide assessment project

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Aurora, that

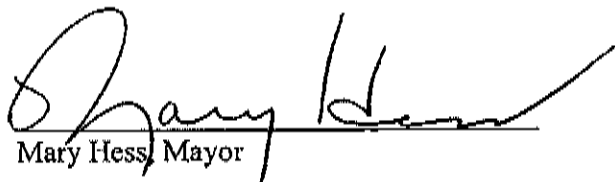
WHEREAS, the City of Aurora, Minnesota is a member of the Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) and also a member of the CIRI Brownfield Redevelopment Program Coalition (Coalition), which was created as a collation of member communities for the purpose of seeking a US EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant.

WHEREAS, the City of Aurora, Minnesota supports the US EPA Brownfield Assessment grant application which will be submitted to the US EPA on or before December 19, 2014 by the City of Virginia, Minnesota, on behalf of the Coalition.

WHEREAS, that upon approval of the Coalition's application to the US EPA, the City of Aurora, Minnesota may enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia for the above-referenced community-wide assessment project, and the that City of Aurora, Minnesota certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in all contract agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer are authorized to exccute such agreements as are necessary to implement the project(s) on behalf of the City of Aurora, Minnesota.

ADOPTED this 15th day of December, 2015.


Mary Hess, Mayor

ATTEST:


Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

City of Babbitt



Telephone 218-827-3464
Fax 218-827-2204
E-mail: info@babbitt-mn.com
Website: www.babbitt-mn.com

71 South Drive
Babbitt MN 55706

Mayor - Bernice Norregaard
City Clerk-Treasurer - Cathy Bissonette
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer - Debbera Marlboro

Councillors: Jim Lessi
Ron Marlboro
Travis Roseth
Andrea Zupancich

November 19, 2014

Mr. John Tourville
City Administrator
City of Virginia, Minnesota
327 1st Street South
Virginia, MN 55792

Dear Mr. Tourville,

This letter confirms that the City Council of Babbitt, Minnesota has resolved to participate as a member of the Central Iron Range Brownfields Program Coalition (Coalition) and will support seeking a Brownfields Assessment Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency.

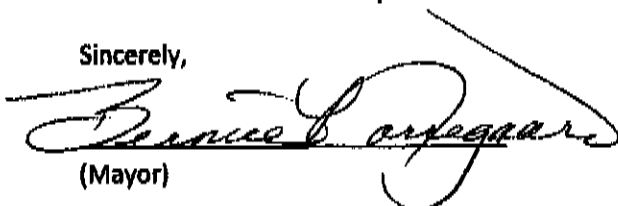
We understand that the City of Virginia, Minnesota will be the Coalition leader and will submit the grant application on behalf of the Coalition. The application will be submitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency on or before December 19, 2014.

If the grant is awarded funding, the City of Babbitt, Minnesota will be prepared to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia, Minnesota for the community-wide coalition assessment project.

We appreciate the City of Virginia's efforts to act as the fiscal agent for the Coalition members and we look forward to working together on this project. We have assigned the following person as our community's Brownfields Program contact person:

Name: Cathy Bissonette, Clerk-Treasurer
Address: City of Babbitt, 71 South Drive, Babbitt, MN 55706
Telephone: (218)-827-3647
Email Address: Cathy@babbitt-mn.com

Sincerely,


(Mayor)

City of Babbitt, Minnesota

Resolution 2014-13

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Babbitt, Minnesota is a member of the Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) and is also a member of the CIRI Brownfield Redevelopment Program Coalition (Coalition), which was created as a collation of member communities for the purpose of seeking a US EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Babbitt, Minnesota supports the US EPA Brownfield Assessment grant application which will be submitted to the US EPA on or before December 19, 2014 by the City of Virginia, Minnesota, on behalf of the Coalition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of the Coalition's application to the US EPA, the City of Babbitt, Minnesota may enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia for the above-referenced community-wide assessment project, and the that City of Babbitt, Minnesota certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in all contract agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Bernice Norregaard, Mayor of Babbitt, Minnesota is hereby authorized to execute such agreements as are necessary to implement the project(s) on behalf of the City of Babbitt, Minnesota.

I CERTIFY THAT the above resolution was adopted by the City Council of Babbitt, Minnesota on 11/19/2014,
(date)

SIGNED:


(Authorized Official)

Mayor
(Title)

WITNESSED:


(Signature)

Clerk-Treasurer
(Title)

Township of Balkan, Minnesota

Resolution 002014-03

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Balkan, Minnesota is a member of the Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) and is also a member of the CIRI Brownfield Redevelopment Program Coalition (Coalition), which was created as a collation of member communities for the purpose of seeking a US EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant.

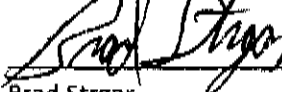
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township of Balkan, Minnesota supports the US EPA Brownfield Assessment grant application which will be submitted to the US EPA on or before December 19, 2014 by the City of Virginia, Minnesota, on behalf of the Coalition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of the Coalition's application to the US EPA, the Township of Balkan, Minnesota may enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia for the above-referenced community-wide assessment project, and the that Township of Balkan, Minnesota certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in all contract agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Brad Strgar, of the Town Board of Balkan, Minnesota is hereby authorized to execute such agreements as are necessary to implement the project(s) on behalf of the Township of Balkan, Minnesota.

I CERTIFY THAT the above resolution was adopted by the Town Board of Balkan, Minnesota on December 11, 2014.

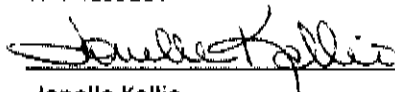
SIGNED:



Brad Strgar

Board Chair
(Title)

WITNESSED:



Jonelle Kallio

Town Clerk
(Title)

Date: 12-11-2014

Mr. John Tourville
City Administrator
City of Virginia, Minnesota
327 1st Street South
Virginia, MN 55792

Dear Mr. Tourville,

This letter confirms that the Town Board of Balkan, Minnesota has resolved to participate as a member of the Central Iron Range Brownfields Program Coalition (Coalition) and will support seeking a Brownfields Assessment Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency.

We understand that the City of Virginia, Minnesota will be the Coalition leader and will submit the grant application on behalf of the Coalition. The application will be submitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency on or before December 19, 2014.

If the grant is awarded funding, the Township of Balkan, Minnesota will be prepared to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia, Minnesota for the community-wide coalition assessment project.

We appreciate the City of Virginia's efforts to act as the fiscal agent for the Coalition members and we look forward to working together on this project. We have assigned the following person as our community's Brownfields Program contact person:

Name: Jonelle Kallio
Address: 5524 Highway 73 N. P.O. Box 66 Chisholm, MN
Telephone: 218-254-3967
Email Address: balkantown@gmail.com

Sincerely,



Chairman, Town Board



City of Biwabik

321 North Main Street
P.O. Box 529, Biwabik, MN 55708
(218) 865-4183 Fax: (218) 865-4580

November 24, 2014

Mr. John Tourville
City Administrator
City of Virginia, Minnesota
327 1st Street South
Virginia, MN 55792

Dear Mr. Tourville,

This letter confirms that the City Council of Biwabik, Minnesota has resolved to participate as a member of the Central Iron Range Brownfields Program Coalition (Coalition) and will support seeking a Brownfields Assessment Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency.

We understand that the City of Virginia, Minnesota will be the Coalition leader and will submit the grant application on behalf of the Coalition. The application will be submitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency on or before December 19, 2014.

If the grant is awarded funding, the City of Biwabik, Minnesota will be prepared to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia, Minnesota for the community-wide coalition assessment project.

We appreciate the City of Virginia's efforts to act as the fiscal agent for the Coalition members and we look forward to working together on this project. We have assigned the following person as our community's Brownfields Program contact person:

Name: Jeff Jacobson
Address: P.O. Box 529 Biwabik MN 55708
Telephone: (218) 865-4183
Email Address: administrator@cityofbiwabik.com

Sincerely,

Jim Weikum

City of Biwabik, Minnesota

Resolution 2014-24

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Biwabik, Minnesota is a member of the Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) and is also a member of the CIRI Brownfield Redevelopment Program Coalition (Coalition), which was created as a collation of member communities for the purpose of seeking a US EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant.

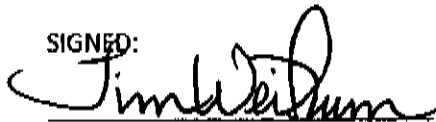
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Biwabik, Minnesota supports the US EPA Brownfield Assessment grant application which will be submitted to the US EPA on or before December 19, 2014 by the City of Virginia, Minnesota, on behalf of the Coalition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of the Coalition's application to the US EPA, the City of Biwabik, Minnesota may enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia for the above-referenced community-wide assessment project, and the that City of Biwabik, Minnesota certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in all contract agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Jim Weikum, Mayor of Biwabik, Minnesota is hereby authorized to execute such agreements as are necessary to implement the project(s) on behalf of the City of Biwabik, Minnesota.

I CERTIFY THAT the above resolution was adopted by the City Council of Biwabik, Minnesota on November 24, 2014.

SIGNED:

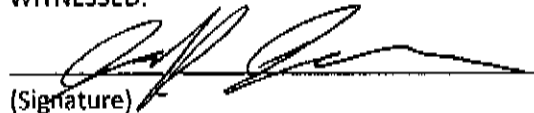


(Authorized Official)

Mayor

(Title)

WITNESSED:



(Signature)

City Administrator

(Title)

December 16, 2014

Mr. John Tourville
City Administrator
City of Virginia, Minnesota
327 1st Street South
Virginia, MN 55792

Dear Mr. Tourville,

This letter confirms that the City Council of Bovey, Minnesota has resolved to participate as a member of the Central Iron Range Brownfields Program Coalition (Coalition) and will support seeking a Brownfields Assessment Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency.

We understand that the City of Virginia, Minnesota will be the Coalition leader and will submit the grant application on behalf of the Coalition. The application will be submitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency on or before December 19, 2014.

If the grant is awarded funding, the City of Bovey, Minnesota will be prepared to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia, Minnesota for the community-wide coalition assessment project.

We appreciate the City of Virginia's efforts to act as the fiscal agent for the Coalition members and we look forward to working together on this project. We have assigned the following person as our community's Brownfields Program contact person:

Michael Bibich, Mayor
PO Box 399, Bovey, MN 55709
(218)392-0032
mbibich@yahoo.com

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Bibich", written over a horizontal line.

Michael Bibich, Mayor

City of Bovey, Minnesota

Resolution No. 14-1215

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Bovey, Minnesota is a member of the Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) and is also a member of the CIRI Brownfield Redevelopment Program Coalition (Coalition), which was created as a collation of member communities for the purpose of seeking a US EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant.

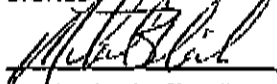
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Bovey, Minnesota supports the US EPA Brownfield Assessment grant application which will be submitted to the US EPA on or before December 19, 2014 by the City of Virginia, Minnesota, on behalf of the Coalition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of the Coalition's application to the US EPA, the City of Bovey, Minnesota may enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia for the above-referenced community-wide assessment project, and the that City of Bovey, Minnesota certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in all contract agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Michael Bibich, Mayor of Bovey, Minnesota is hereby authorized to execute such agreements as are necessary to implement the project(s) on behalf of the City of Bovey, Minnesota.

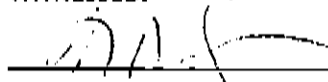
I CERTIFY THAT the above resolution was adopted by the City Council of Bovey, Minnesota on December 15, 2014.

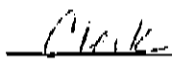
SIGNED:


(Authorized Official)


(Title)

WITNESSED:


(Signature)


(Title)



CITY OF BUHL

"Finest Water in America"

December 3, 2014

City of Virginia
John Tourville, Administrator
327 1st Street South
Virginia, MN 55792

Dear Mr. Tourville,

This letter confirms that the City Council of Buhl, Minnesota has resolved to participate as a member of the Central Iron Range Brownfields Program Coalition (Coalition) and will support seeking a Brownfields Assessment Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency.

We understand that the City of Virginia, Minnesota will be the Coalition leader and will submit the grant application on behalf of the Coalition. The application will be submitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency on or before December 19, 2014.

If the grant is awarded funding, the City of Buhl, Minnesota will be prepared to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia, Minnesota for the community-wide coalition assessment project.

We appreciate the City of Virginia's efforts to act as the fiscal agent for the Coalition members and we look forward to working together on this project. We have assigned the following person as our community's Brownfields Program contact person:

Michael Buchanan, Clerk
P.O. Box 704, Buhl, MN 55713
218-258-3226
buhladmin@accessmn.com

Sincerely


Craig Pufford, Mayor

RESOLUTION 14-31

A RESOLUTION COMMITTING THE CITY OF BUHL TO WORK WITH THE COALITION MEMBERS, THE CENTRAL IRON RANGE INITIATIVE BROWNFIELD PROGRAM AND THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Buhl, Minnesota is a member of the Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) and is also a member of the CIRI Brownfield Redevelopment Program Coalition (Coalition), which was created as a coalition of member communities for the purpose of seeking a U.S. EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Buhl, Minnesota supports the U.S. EPA Brownfield Assessment grant application which will be submitted to the U.S. EPA on or before December 19, 2014 by the City of Virginia, Minnesota, on behalf of the Coalition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of the Coalition's application to the U.S. EPA, the City of Buhl, Minnesota may enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia for the above referenced community-wide assessment project, and that the City of Buhl, Minnesota certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in all contract agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Craig Pulford, Mayor of Buhl, Minnesota or his successor is hereby authorized to execute such agreements as are necessary to implement the project(s) on behalf of the City of Buhl, Minnesota.

The foregoing resolution was introduced and moved for adoption by Councilor Matthew and supported by Councilor Larsen.

Voting for resolution: Councilors Matthew, Larsen, Swanson, Mayor Pulford


Voting against resolution: None

Abstained from vote: None

Absent: Councilor White

Motion carried and Resolution 14-31 was adopted this 2nd day of December, 2014.

ATTEST:


Michael Buchanan, Clerk/Treasurer
Craig Pulford, Mayor



City Hall

316 West Lake Street
Chisholm, MN 55719

Tel: (218)254-7900 Fax: (218)254-7955

www.ci.chisholm.mn.us

November 26, 2014

Mr. John Tourville
City Administrator
City of Virginia, Minnesota
327 1st Street South
Virginia, MN 55792

Dear Mr. Tourville,

This letter confirms that the City Council of Chisholm, Minnesota has resolved to participate as a member of the Central Iron Range Brownfields Program Coalition (Coalition) and will support seeking a Brownfields Assessment Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency.

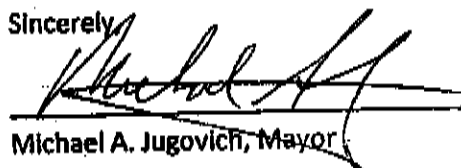
We understand that the City of Virginia, Minnesota will be the Coalition leader and will submit the grant application on behalf of the Coalition. The application will be submitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency on or before December 19, 2014.

If the grant is awarded funding, the City of Chisholm, Minnesota will be prepared to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia, Minnesota for the community-wide coalition assessment project.

We appreciate the City of Virginia's efforts to act as the fiscal agent for the Coalition members and we look forward to working together on this project. We have assigned the following person as our community's Brownfields Program contact person:

Name: Mark Casey
Address: 316 W. Lake Street, Chisholm, MN 55719
Telephone: (218) 254-7900
Email Address: mcasey@ci.chisholm.mn.us

Sincerely,



Michael A. Jugovich, Mayor

**RESOLUTION 1114-102
CITY OF CHISHOLM AGREEMENT
WITH CENTRAL IRON RANGE INITIATIVE (CIRI)**

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF SAINT LOUIS)
CITY OF CHISHOLM)**

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Chisholm, Minnesota is a member of the Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) and is also a member of the CIRI Brownfield Redevelopment Program Coalition (Coalition), which was created as a coalition of member communities for the purpose of seeking a US EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Chisholm, Minnesota supports the US EPA Brownfield Assessment grant application which will be submitted to the US EPA on or before December 19, 2014 by the City of Virginia, Minnesota, on behalf of the Coalition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of the Coalition's application to the US EPA, the City of Chisholm, Minnesota may enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia for the above-referenced community-wide assessment project, and that the City of Chisholm, Minnesota certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in all contract agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Michael A. Jugovich, Mayor of Chisholm, Minnesota is hereby authorized to execute such agreements as are necessary to implement the project(s) on behalf of the City of Chisholm, Minnesota.


I CERTIFY THAT the above resolution was adopted by the City Council of Chisholm, Minnesota on November 25, 2014.

Voting Aye: Councilors Benson, Campbell, Cook, Drow, and Mayor Jugovich

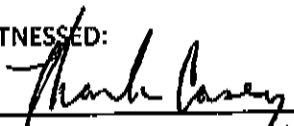
Voting No: None

Absent: Councilor Scala

SIGNED:


Michael A. Jugovich, Mayor

WITNESSED:


Mark Casey, Administrator/City Clerk

LETTER:

Date: November 24, 2014

Mr. John Tourville, Administrator
City of Virginia, Minnesota
327 1st Street South
Virginia, MN 55792

Dear Mr. Tourville,

This letter confirms that the Coleraine city council has resolved to participate as a member of the Central Iron Range Brownfields Program Coalition (Coalition) and will support seeking a Brownfields Assessment Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency.

We understand that the City of Virginia will be the Coalition leader and will submit the grant application on behalf of the Coalition. The application will be submitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency on or before December 19, 2014.

If the grant is awarded funding, the City of Coleraine will be prepared to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia for the community-wide coalition brownfield assessment project.

We appreciate the City of Virginia's efforts to act as the fiscal agent for the Coalition members and we look forward to working together on this project. We have assigned the following person as our community's Brownfields Program contact person:

Name: Mary Roy
Address: P.O. Box 670, Coleraine, MN 55722
Telephone: 218.245.2112
Email Address: maryroy@cityofcoleraine.com

Sincerely,


Mayor, City of Coleraine

cc:

Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board
PO Box 166
Coleraine, Minnesota 55709

City of Coleraine, Minnesota

Resolution 11-24-14

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Coleraine, in Itasca County, Minnesota will be a member of the CIRI Brownfield Redevelopment Program Coalition (Coalition), which was created as a collation of member local government entities for the purpose of seeking a US EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Coleraine supports the US EPA Brownfield Assessment grant application which will be submitted to the US EPA on or before December 19, 2014 by the City of Virginia, Minnesota, as fiscal agent on behalf of the Coalition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of the Coalition's application to the US EPA, the City of Coleraine may enter into an appropriate Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia with regard to the above-referenced community-wide brownfield assessment project, and the that City of Coleraine certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations and with all provisions of such Memorandum of Understanding into which it enters.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Mike Antonovich Mayor, is hereby authorized to execute such agreements as are necessary to implement the project(s) on behalf of the City of Coleraine.

I CERTIFY THAT the above resolution was adopted by the City of Coleraine on 11-24-14 (date)

SIGNED:

Michael Antonovich
(Authorized Official)

WITNESSED:

Donny Silvestach
(Signature)

Mayor
(Title)

City Clerk
(Title)



December 12, 2014

Mr. John Tourville
City Administrator
City of Virginia, Minnesota
327 1st Street South
Virginia, MN 55792

Dear Mr. Tourville,

This letter confirms that the City Council of Cook, Minnesota has resolved to participate as a member of the Central Iron Range Brownfields Program Coalition (Coalition) and will support seeking a Brownfields Assessment Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency.

We understand that the City of Virginia, Minnesota will be the Coalition leader and will submit the grant application on behalf of the Coalition. The application will be submitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency on or before December 19, 2014.

If the grant is awarded funding, the City of Cook, Minnesota will be prepared to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia, Minnesota for the community-wide coalition assessment project.

We appreciate the City of Virginia's efforts to act as the fiscal agent for the Coalition members and we look forward to working together on this project. We have assigned the following person as our community's Brownfields Program contact person:

Name: Theresa Martinson, Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer
Address: 127 South River Street; P O Box 155 – Cook, MN 55723-0155
Telephone: 218-666-2200
Email Address: theresa@cookmn.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karen Hollanitsch".

Karen Hollanitsch
Acting Mayor

www.cookmn.us • city@cookmn.us

CITY OF COOK • PO BOX 155 • COOK • MN 55723 • 218-666-2200 • FAX 218-666-0004



City of Cook, Minnesota 55723

Resolution 141212

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Cook, Minnesota is a member of the Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) and is also a member of the CIRI Brownfield Redevelopment Program Coalition (Coalition), which was created as a collation of member communities for the purpose of seeking a US EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Cook, Minnesota supports the US EPA Brownfield Assessment grant application which will be submitted to the US EPA on or before December 19, 2014 by the City of Virginia, Minnesota, on behalf of the Coalition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of the Coalition's application to the US EPA, the City of Cook, Minnesota may enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia for the above-referenced community-wide assessment project, and the that City of Cook, Minnesota certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in all contract agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Harold Johnston, Mayor and Karen Hollanitsch, Acting Mayor of Cook, Minnesota are hereby authorized to execute such agreements as are necessary to implement the project(s) on behalf of the City of Cook, Minnesota.

I CERTIFY THAT the above resolution was adopted by the City Council of Cook, Minnesota on December 12, 2014.

SIGNED:

Karen Hollanitsch
Acting Mayor

WITNESSED:

Theresa Martinson
Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer

CITY OF ELY

November 19, 2014

209 E. Chapman St.
Ely, Minnesota 55731
218-365-3224

Mr. John Tourville
City Administrator
City of Virginia, Minnesota
327 1st Street South
Virginia, MN 55792

Dear Mr. Tourville,

This letter confirms that the City Council of Ely, Minnesota has resolved to participate as a member of the Central Iron Range Brownfields Program Coalition (Coalition) and will support seeking a Brownfields Assessment Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency.

We understand that the City of Virginia, Minnesota will be the Coalition leader and will submit the grant application on behalf of the Coalition. The application will be submitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency on or before December 19, 2014.

If the grant is awarded funding, the City of Ely, Minnesota will be prepared to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia, Minnesota for the community-wide coalition assessment project.

We appreciate the City of Virginia's efforts to act as the fiscal agent for the Coalition members and we look forward to working together on this project. We have assigned the following person as our community's Brownfields Program contact person:

Name: Harold R. Langowski
Address: 209 E. Chapman St, Ely MN 55731
Telephone: 218-235-3083
Email Address: elyod@ely.mn.us

Sincerely,



(Mayor) Ross T Petersen



Resolution: 2014-044

Adopted: 11/18/2014

CITY OF ELY

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ELY APPROVING
SUPPORT OF THE US EPA BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENT GRANT APPLICATION**

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Ely, Minnesota is a member of the Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) and is also a member of the CIRI Brownfield Redevelopment Program Coalition (Coalition), which was created as a collation of member communities for the purpose of seeking a US EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Ely, Minnesota supports the US EPA Brownfield Assessment grant application which will be submitted to the US EPA on or before December 19, 2014 by the City of Virginia, Minnesota, on behalf of the Coalition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of the Coalition's application to the US EPA, the City of Ely, Minnesota may enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia for the above-referenced community-wide assessment project, and the that City of Ely, Minnesota certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in all contract agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk/Treasurer of Ely, Minnesota is hereby authorized to execute such agreements as are necessary to implement the project(s) on behalf of the City of Ely, Minnesota.

Upon vote taken thereon, the following voted:

For: Council member Debeltz, Kess, Nikkola, Omerza, Polyner, Sheddy and Mayor Petersen

Against: None

Whereupon said Resolution No. 2014-044 was declared duly passed and adopted this 18th day of November, 2014.



Ross T Petersen, Mayor



Harold R Langowski, Clerk/Treasurer



December 5, 2014

Mr. John Tourville
City Administrator
City of Virginia, Minnesota
327 1st Street South
Virginia, MN 55792

Dear Mr. Tourville,

This letter confirms that the City Council of Eveleth, Minnesota has resolved to participate as a member of the Central Iron Range Brownfields Program Coalition (Coalition) and will support seeking a Brownfields Assessment Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency.

We understand that the City of Virginia, Minnesota will be the Coalition leader and will submit the grant application on behalf of the Coalition. The application will be submitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency on or before December 19, 2014.

If the grant is awarded funding, the City of Eveleth, Minnesota will be prepared to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia, Minnesota for the community-wide coalition assessment project.

We appreciate the City of Virginia's efforts to act as the fiscal agent for the Coalition members and we look forward to working together on this project. We have assigned the following person as our community's Brownfields Program contact person:

Jackie Monahan-Junek, City Clerk Administrator
City of Eveleth
413 Pierce Street
Eveleth, MN 55734
218-744-7444
jackie@evelethmn.com

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Vlasisavljevich".

Robert Vlasisavljevich
Mayor of Eveleth



CITY OF EVELETH, MINNESOTA

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-40

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CENTRAL IRON RANGE INITIATIVE BROWNFIELD
REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM COALITION U.S. EPA BROWNFIELD
ASSESSMENT GRANT APPLICATION**

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Eveleth, Minnesota is a member of the Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) and is also a member of the CIRI Brownfield Redevelopment Program Coalition (Coalition), which was created as a collation of member communities for the purpose of seeking a US EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Eveleth, Minnesota supports the US EPA Brownfield Assessment grant application which will be submitted to the US EPA on or before December 19, 2014 by the City of Virginia, Minnesota, on behalf of the Coalition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of the Coalition's application to the US EPA, the City of Eveleth, Minnesota may enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia for the above-referenced community-wide assessment project, and the that City of Eveleth, Minnesota certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in all contract agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Robert Vlasisavljevich, Mayor of Eveleth, Minnesota is hereby authorized to execute such agreements as are necessary to implement the project(s) on behalf of the City of Eveleth, Minnesota.

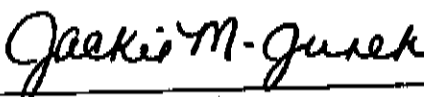
The foregoing resolution was offered by Councilor Lillis and supported by Councilor Peterson was declared carried on the following vote:

Ayes:	Peterson, Lillis, Koivunen, Vlasisavljevich
Nays:	None
Absent:	Hadrava

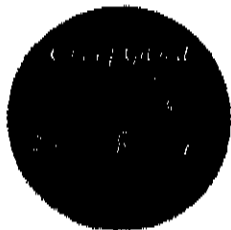
Adopted by motion of the Council of the City of Eveleth this 2nd day of December, 2014.


Robert Vlasisavljevich, Mayor

Attest:


Jackie Monahan-Junek,
City Clerk-Administrator

Adopted: December 2, 2014
Published: December 12, 2014



City of Gilbert

www.gilbertmn.org

16 South Broadway • P.O. Box 548 • Gilbert, MN 55741

Phone: 218-748-2232 • Fax: 218-748-2234

November 26, 2014

Mr. John Tourville
City Administrator
City of Virginia, Minnesota
327 1st Street South
Virginia, MN 55792

Dear Mr. Tourville,

This letter confirms that the City Council of Gilbert, Minnesota has resolved to participate as a member of the Central Iron Range Brownfields Program Coalition (Coalition) and will support seeking a Brownfields Assessment Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency.

We understand that the City of Virginia, Minnesota will be the Coalition leader and will submit the grant application on behalf of the Coalition. The application will be submitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency on or before December 19, 2014.

If the grant is awarded funding, the City of Gilbert, Minnesota will be prepared to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia, Minnesota for the community-wide coalition assessment project.

We appreciate the City of Virginia's efforts to act as the fiscal agent for the Coalition members and we look forward to working together on this project. We have assigned the following person as our community's Brownfields Program contact person:

Name: Debra Sakrison
Address: City of Gilbert, PO Box 548, Gilbert MN 55741
Telephone: 218-748-2232
Email Address: clerk@gilbertmn.org

Sincerely,


Michael Skenzich, Mayor



City of Gilbert

www.gilbertmn.org

16 South Broadway • P.O. Box 548 • Gilbert, MN 55741

Phone: 218-748-2232 • Fax: 218-748-2234

City of Gilbert, Minnesota

Resolution 2014-20

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Gilbert, Minnesota is a member of the Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) and is also a member of the CIRI Brownfield Redevelopment Program Coalition (Coalition), which was created as a collation of member communities for the purpose of seeking a US EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Gilbert, Minnesota supports the US EPA Brownfield Assessment grant application which will be submitted to the US EPA on or before December 19, 2014 by the City of Virginia, Minnesota, on behalf of the Coalition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of the Coalition's application to the US EPA, the City of Gilbert, Minnesota may enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia for the above-referenced community-wide assessment project, and the that City of Gilbert, Minnesota certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in all contract agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Michael Skenzich, Mayor of Gilbert, Minnesota is hereby authorized to execute such agreements as are necessary to implement the project(s) on behalf of the City of Gilbert, Minnesota.

I CERTIFY THAT the above resolution was adopted by the City Council of Gilbert, Minnesota on November 25, 2014.

SIGNED:

Michael Skenzich

11-25-2014

Mayor

WITNESSED:

Debra Sakrison

11-25-14

Clerk/Treasurer



Municipal Building
206 Kennedy Memorial Drive
Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota 55750-1140

www.hoytlakes.com
e-mail: info@hoytlakes.com

Phone: (218) 225-2344
FAX: (218) 225-2485

November 24, 2014

Mr. John Tourville
City Administrator
City of Virginia, Minnesota
327 1st Street South
Virginia, MN 55792

Dear Mr. Tourville,

This letter confirms that the City Council of Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota has resolved to participate as a member of the Central Iron Range Brownfields Program Coalition (Coalition) and will support seeking a Brownfields Assessment Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency.

We understand that the City of Virginia, Minnesota will be the Coalition leader and will submit the grant application on behalf of the Coalition. The application will be submitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency on or before December 19, 2014.

If the grant is awarded funding, the City of Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota will be prepared to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia, Minnesota for the community-wide coalition assessment project.

We appreciate the City of Virginia's efforts to act as the fiscal agent for the Coalition members and we look forward to working together on this project. We have assigned the following person as our community's Brownfields Program contact person:

Name: Mark Skelton
Address: 206 Kennedy Memorial Drive
Telephone: 218-225-2344 ; 218-780-0465
Email Address: mskelton@frontiernet.net

Sincerely,

Mark Skelton, Mayor



Municipal Building
206 Kennedy Memorial Drive
Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota 55750-1140

www.hoytlakes.com
e-mail: info@hoytlakes.com

Phone: (218) 225-2344
FAX: (218) 225-2485

**City of Hoyt Lakes
Resolution 2014-017**

A Resolution and Commitment to New Application to CIRI Brownfields EPA Grant

WHEREAS, the City of Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota is a member of the Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) and is also a member of the CIRI Brownfield Redevelopment Program Coalition (Coalition), which was created as a collation of member communities for the purpose of seeking a US EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant.

WHEREAS, the City of Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota supports the US EPA Brownfield Assessment grant application which will be submitted to the US EPA on or before December 19, 2014 by the City of Virginia, Minnesota, on behalf of the Coalition.

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon approval of the Coalition's application to the US EPA, the City of Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota may enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia for the above-referenced community-wide assessment project, and the that City of Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in all contract agreements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mark Skelton, Mayor of Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota is hereby authorized to execute such agreements as are necessary to implement the project(s) on behalf of the City of Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota.

ADOPTED this 24th day of November, 2014.

Mark Skelton, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rebecca J. Burich, City Clerk-Treasurer

LETTER:

Date: 11/25/14

Mr. John Tourville, Administrator
City of Virginia, Minnesota
327 1st Street South
Virginia, MN 55792

Dear Mr. Tourville,

This letter confirms that the Keewatin city council has resolved to participate as a member of the Central Iron Range Brownfields Program Coalition (Coalition) and will support seeking a Brownfields Assessment Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency.

We understand that the City of Virginia will be the Coalition leader and will submit the grant application on behalf of the Coalition. The application will be submitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency on or before December 19, 2014.

If the grant is awarded funding, the City of Keewatin will be prepared to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia for the community-wide coalition brownfield assessment project.

We appreciate the City of Virginia's efforts to act as the fiscal agent for the Coalition members and we look forward to working together on this project. We have assigned the following person as our community's Brownfields Program contact person:

Name: Mayor William King
Address: PO Box 190 Keewatin MN 55753
Telephone: _____
Email Address: _____

Sincerely,



Mayor, City of Keewatin

cc:

Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board
PO Box 166
Keewatin, Minnesota 55709

City of Keewatin, Minnesota

Resolution 2014-9

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Keewatin, in Itasca County, Minnesota will be a member of the CIRI Brownfield Redevelopment Program Coalition (Coalition), which was created as a collation of member local government entitles for the purpose of seeking a US EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Keewatin supports the US EPA Brownfield Assessment grant application which will be submitted to the US EPA on or before December 19, 2014 by the City of Virginia, Minnesota, as fiscal agent on behalf of the Coalition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of the Coalition's application to the US EPA, the City of Keewatin may enter into an appropriate Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia with regard to the above-referenced community-wide brownfield assessment project, and the that City of Keewatin certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations and with all provisions of such Memorandum of Understanding into which it enters.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that William King, Mayor, is hereby authorized to execute such agreements as are necessary to implement the project(s) on behalf of the City of Keewatin.

I CERTIFY THAT the above resolution was adopted by the City of Keewatin on 11/25/14. (date)

SIGNED:

William King
(Authorized Official)

Mayor
(Title)

WITNESSED:

Muri Choudhry
(Signature)

city clerk
(Title)

Date: 12/03/2014

Mr. John Tourville
City Administrator
City of Virginia, Minnesota
327 1st Street South
Virginia, MN 55792

Dear Mr. Tourville,

This letter confirms that the Town Board of Lone Pine, Minnesota has resolved to participate as a member of the Central Iron Range Brownfields Program Coalition (Coalition) and will support seeking a Brownfields Assessment Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency.

We understand that the City of Virginia, Minnesota will be the Coalition leader and will submit the grant application on behalf of the Coalition. The application will be submitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency on or before December 19, 2014.

If the grant is awarded funding, the Township of Lone Pine, Minnesota will be prepared to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia, Minnesota for the community-wide coalition assessment project.

We appreciate the City of Virginia's efforts to act as the fiscal agent for the Coalition members and we look forward to working together on this project. We have assigned the following person as our community's Brownfields Program contact person:

Name: Jon Korpi
Address: 30867 East Shore Drive Pengilly MN 55775
Telephone: 218 969 4297
Email Address: Korpi@scicable.com

Sincerely,



Chairman, Town Board

Township of Lone Pine, Minnesota

Resolution _____

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Lone Pine, Minnesota is a member of the Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) and is also a member of the CIRI Brownfield Redevelopment Program Coalition (Coalition), which was created as a collation of member communities for the purpose of seeking a US EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township of Lone Pine, Minnesota supports the US EPA Brownfield Assessment grant application which will be submitted to the US EPA on or before December 19, 2014 by the City of Virginia, Minnesota, on behalf of the Coalition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of the Coalition's application to the US EPA, the Township of Lone Pine, Minnesota may enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia for the above-referenced community-wide assessment project, and the that Township of Lone Pine, Minnesota certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in all contract agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Jon Kerpi, of the Town Board of Lone Pine, Minnesota is hereby authorized to execute such agreements as are necessary to implement the project(s) on behalf of the Township of Lone Pine, Minnesota.

I CERTIFY THAT the above resolution was adopted by the Town Board of Lone Pine, Minnesota on 12/03/2014
(date)

SIGNED:

Jon Kerpi
(Authorized Official)

Chairman
(Title)

WITNESSED:

John Jacobson
(Signature)

CLERK
(Title)

Date: 10-8-14

Mr. John Tourville
City Administrator
City of Virginia, Minnesota
327 1st Street South
Virginia, MN 55792

Dear Mr. Tourville,

This letter confirms that the City Council of Marble, Minnesota has resolved to participate as a member of the Central Iron Range Brownfields Program Coalition (Coalition) and will support seeking a Brownfields Assessment Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency.

We understand that the City of Virginia, Minnesota will be the Coalition leader and will submit the grant application on behalf of the Coalition. The application will be submitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency on or before December 19, 2014.

If the grant is awarded funding, the City of Marble, Minnesota will be prepared to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia, Minnesota for the community-wide coalition assessment project.

We appreciate the City of Virginia's efforts to act as the fiscal agent for the Coalition members and we look forward to working together on this project. We have assigned the following person as our community's Brownfields Program contact person:

Name: Tracy Schmitt
Address: P.O. Box 38 Marble Mn.
Telephone: 218-247-7976
Email Address: MarbleCity@mcis.com

Sincerely,

David A. Brown
(Mayor) - *pro tem*

City of Marble, Minnesota

Resolution December 8, 2014

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Marble, Minnesota is a member of the Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) and is also a member of the CIRI Brownfield Redevelopment Program Coalition (Coalition), which was created as a collation of member communities for the purpose of seeking a US EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Marble, Minnesota supports the US EPA Brownfield Assessment grant application which will be submitted to the US EPA on or before December 19, 2014 by the City of Virginia, Minnesota, on behalf of the Coalition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of the Coalition's application to the US EPA, the City of Marble, Minnesota may enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia for the above-referenced community-wide assessment project, and the that City of Marble, Minnesota certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in all contract agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Dan Brun, Mayor of Marble, Minnesota is hereby authorized to execute such agreements as are necessary to implement the project(s) on behalf of the City of Marble, Minnesota.

I CERTIFY THAT the above resolution was adopted by the City Council of Marble, Minnesota on 12-8-14.
(date)

SIGNED:

Blanche A. Brun
(Authorized Official)

Mayor Pro-Tem
(Title)

WITNESSED:

Stacy Schwartz
(Signature)

City Clerk
(Title)

November 26, 2014

Mr. John Tourville, Administrator
City of Virginia, Minnesota
327 1st Street South
Virginia, MN 55792

Dear Mr. Tourville,

This letter confirms that the Nashwauk city council has resolved to participate as a member of the Central Iron Range Brownfields Program Coalition (Coalition) and will support seeking a Brownfields Assessment Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency.

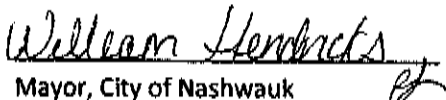
We understand that the City of Virginia will be the Coalition leader and will submit the grant application on behalf of the Coalition. The application will be submitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency on or before December 19, 2014.

If the grant is awarded funding, the City of Nashwauk will be prepared to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia for the community-wide coalition brownfield assessment project.

We appreciate the City of Virginia's efforts to act as the fiscal agent for the Coalition members and we look forward to working together on this project. We have assigned the following person as our community's Brownfields Program contact person:

Name: Pamela LaBine
Address: 301 Central Ave, Nashwauk MN 55769
Telephone: 218-885-1210
Email Address: nashwaukcityhall@mchsi.com

Sincerely,


Mayor, City of Nashwauk

cc:

Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board
PO Box 166
Nashwauk, MN 55709

City of Nashwauk, Minnesota

Resolution 14-012

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Nashwauk, in Itasca County, Minnesota will be a member of the CIRI Brownfield Redevelopment Program Coalition (Coalition), which was created as a collation of member local government entities for the purpose of seeking a US EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant.

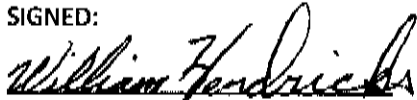
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Nashwauk supports the US EPA Brownfield Assessment grant application which will be submitted to the US EPA on or before December 19, 2014 by the City of Virginia, Minnesota, as fiscal agent on behalf of the Coalition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of the Coalition's application to the US EPA, the City of Nashwauk may enter into an appropriate Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia with regard to the above-referenced community-wide brownfield assessment project, and the that City of Nashwauk certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations and with all provisions of such Memorandum of Understanding into which it enters.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that William Hendricks, Mayor, is hereby authorized to execute such agreements as are necessary to implement the project(s) on behalf of the City of Nashwauk.

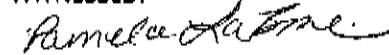
I CERTIFY THAT the above resolution was adopted by the City of Nashwauk on November 25, 2014

SIGNED:



Mayor

WITNESSED:



City Clerk

City of Taconite

P.O. Box 137

26 Haynes Street South

Taconite, Mn 55786

Phone/Fax 218.245.1831 / taconite@mchsi.com

Founded in 1907



Mike Troumbly, Mayor · 245-3011

Lauri Camilli • City Clerk · 245-2081

Kris Hanson • Treasurer · 245-3660

Ted Birch • Council Person · 245-1492

Deacon Kyllander • Council Person · 245-1837

Dusty Sipe • Council Person · 259-1061

Jaimy 'Mooch' Troumbly • Str Commish · 259-2681

Gabe Troumbly • Maintenance Worker · 244-6893

December 8, 2014

Mr. John Tourville, City Administrator
City of Virginia, Minnesota
327 1st Street South
Virginia, MN 55792

**RE: CENTRAL IRON RANGE BROWNFIELD PROGRAM COALITION
DECEMBER 2014 GRANT APPLICATION**

Dear Administrator Tourville:

This letter confirms that the City Council of Taconite, Minnesota has resolved to participate as a member of the Central Iron Range Brownfields Program Coalition (Coalition) and will support seeking a Brownfields Assessment Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency.

We understand that the City of Virginia, Minnesota will be the Coalition leader and will submit the grant application on behalf of the Coalition. The application will be submitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency on or before December 19, 2014.

If the grant is awarded funding, the City of Taconite, Minnesota will be prepared to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia, Minnesota for the community-wide coalition assessment project.

We appreciate the City of Virginia's efforts to act as the fiscal agent for the Coalition members and we look forward to working together on this project. I will serve as the City of Taconite's Brownfield Program contact person. Feel free to contact me at the number/address/email noted above.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,


Mike Troumbly
Mayor

cc: Taconite City Council
Taconite Zoning Board

"Hub of the Nation"

**CITY OF TACONITE, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 2014-1208-A**



STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF ITASCA)
CITY OF TACONITE)

**Central Iron Range Brownfield Assessment Area Coalition
Resolution of Support • City of Taconite, Minnesota**

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Taconite, Minnesota is a member of the Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) and is also a member of the CIRI Brownfield Redevelopment Program Coalition (Coalition), which was created as a collation of member communities for the purpose of seeking a US EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Taconite, Minnesota supports the US EPA Brownfield Assessment grant application which will be submitted to the US EPA on or before December 19, 2014 by the City of Virginia, Minnesota, on behalf of the Coalition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of the Coalition's application to the US EPA, the City of Taconite, Minnesota may enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia for the above-referenced community-wide assessment project, and the that City of Taconite, Minnesota certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in all contract agreements.

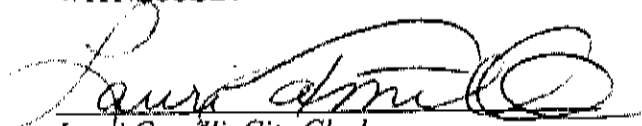
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Michael Troumbly, Mayor of Taconite, Minnesota is hereby authorized to execute such agreements as are necessary to implement the project(s) on behalf of the City of Taconite, Minnesota.

I CERTIFY THAT the above resolution was adopted by the City Council of Taconite, Minnesota on the 8th day of December 2014.

SIGNED:


Michael Troumbly, Mayor

WITNESSED:


Laura Camilli, City Clerk

CITY OF VIRGINIA

327 FIRST STREET SOUTH • VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA 55792-2623

December 11, 2014

To: All CIRI Brownfields Program Coalition Members

RE: Letter of Commitment to the CIRI Brownfields Program

This letter confirms that the City Council of Virginia, Minnesota has resolved to participate as a member of the Central Iron Range Brownfields Program Coalition (Coalition) and will seek a Brownfields Assessment Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency.


We will act as the Coalition Leader and Fiscal Agent for the Coalition and will submit the grant application on behalf of the Coalition. The application will be submitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency on or before December 19, 2014.

If the grant is awarded funding, the City of Virginia, Minnesota will be prepared to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the all other Coalition members for the community-wide coalition assessment project.

We have assigned the following person as our community's Brownfields Program contact person:

Name: John Tourville, City Administrator
Address: 327 South 1st Street
Virginia, MN 55792
Telephone: 218-748-7500, Ext. 562
Email Address: tourvillej@virginiamn.us

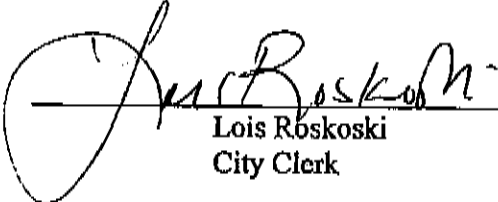
Sincerely,



Louis J. Russo
Mayor

I, Lois Roskoski, City Clerk of the City of Virginia, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have compared the annexed copy of Resolution No. 14270 passed by the City Council of the City of Virginia, on the 9th day of December, 2014, with the original document and record thereof on file and of record in my office, and, in my custody as City Clerk of said City, and that the same is true and correct copy thereof, and the whole thereof, and a true and correct transcript therefrom.

In Witness Whereof, I have hercunto set my hand and affixed this corporate seal of said City of Virginia, this 11th day of December, 2014.


Lois Roskoski
City Clerk

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Resolution No. 14270

City of Virginia, Minnesota December 9, 2014

Resolution approving US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Brownfield Assessment Grant Application and willingness to take role of fiscal agent for the project

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Virginia, that

WHEREAS, the City of Virginia, Minnesota is a member of the Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) and is also a member of the CIRI Brownfield Redevelopment Program Coalition (Coalition), which was created as a collation of member communities for the purpose of seeking a US EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant; and

WHEREAS, the City of Virginia, Minnesota will serve as the Coalition leader and will submit the US EPA Brownfield Assessment grant application on behalf of the Coalition; and

WHEREAS, the City of Virginia, Minnesota supports the Brownfield Assessment Grant application, which will be submitted to the US EPA on or before December 19, 2014, by the City of Virginia, Minnesota, on behalf of the Coalition; and

WHEREAS, the City of Virginia, Minnesota, on behalf of the Coalition, has the legal authority to apply for financial assistance, and the institutional, managerial, and financial capability to ensure adequate project administration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of the Coalition's application by the US EPA, the City of Virginia may enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the other members of the Coalition for the above-referenced coalition assessment project, and that the City of Virginia, Minnesota certifies that will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in all contract agreements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Administrator are hereby authorized to execute such agreements as are necessary to implement the project(s) on behalf of the City of Virginia, Minnesota.

Moved by Councillor Ralston supported by Councillor Cuffe that the above resolution be adopted.

Ayes:- Councillors Cuffe, Littlewolf, Ralston, Sipola, Baranzelli, Vice Mayor Baribeau - 6

Nays:- None

Attachment I

Petroleum eligibility determination information, if applicable.

N/A